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REPORT

025056

OF THE

COMMISSION ON MAHARASHTRA-MYSORE-KERALA BOUNDARY DISPUTES

(VOLUME I)

1967

Rs. 2·60 *paise or* 6 *s* 1 *d or* 94 *cents*

ERRATA

Page 12, para. 2·37, line 2, *for* fo, *read* of.

Page 22, para. 3·5, line 3, *for* Orginal, *read* Original.

Page 23, para. 4·3, last line, *for* absured, *read* absurd.

Page 26, para. 4·16, line 17, *after* have not, *add* been.

Page 27, para. 4·18, line 7, *for* be, *read* go.

Page 30, para. 4·20, line 6, *for* 53:9, *read* 53·9.

Page 33, para. 4·27, line 5, *add* fullstop *after* bilingual.

Page 34, para. 4·28, line 3, *for* It, *read* I.

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Page 37, para. 1·4, line 4, *for* other, *read* others.

Page 38, para. 1·10, line 10, *for* un, *read* run.

Page 40, para. 1·26, line 3, *for* Akkal, *read* Akol.

Page 40, para. 1·29, line 6, *for* miner, *read* minor.

Page 41, para. 1·36, line 4, *for* Theys, *read* They.

Page 42, para. 1·45, line 8, *for* me ger, *read* merger.

Page 45, para. 1·67, line 6, *for* batel, *read* betel.

Page 46, para. 1·73, last line, *for* princes, *read* princess.

Page 51, para. 1·104, line 4, *for* Govan, *read* Gavan.

Page 56, under CHAPTER I(C), *for* HUKERI, *read* ATHNI.

Page 59, *for* para. No. 1·34, *read* 1·134.

Page 63, para. 1·150, last line, *for* part, *read* par.

Page 64, para. 1·155, line 6, *for* Belaum, *read* Belgaum.

Page 65, para. 1·161, line 3, *for* usualy, *read* usually.

Page 66, para. 1·168, line 7, *for* aluminimum, *read* aluminium.

Page 82, para. 1·239, sub-para(a), line 6, *for* short, *read* sort.

Page 91, para. 1·273, line 5, *for* 2,80,963, *read* 2,80,693.

Page 92, para. 1·278, line 15, *for* in, *read* of.

Page 93, para. 1·283, last line, *for* Mharashtra, *read* Maharashtra.

Page 95, para. 1·292, line 8, *for* contingu-, *read* contigu-.

Page 97, para. 1·302, line 3, *delete* the figure 16.

Page 97, para 1·304, line 2, *for* continguous, *read* contiguous.

Page 99, in statement, Sr. No. 43, *for* Inalm, *read* Inam.

Page 99, in statement, Sr. No. 46, *for* 2,586, *read* 2,584.

Page 102, Sr. No. 53, Col. 7, *for* 0., *read* 0·9.

Page 103, Sr. No. 85, *for* Kamkarh, *read* Kamkarhatti.

Page 104, para. 1·307, line 5, *for* 49:6, *read* 49·6; *for* 22·5 *read* 22·5, and *for* Kanada-, *read* Kannada-.

Page 105, para. 1·310, *for* lines 10 and 11, *read* and in the town of Nandgad 39·2 per cent speak Marathi. The major part of this taluka is Malnad area and adjoins the Malnad areas of Bel-.

Page 110, *for* dropped Sr. Nos., *read* 85, 86,87 and 88; and *against* Sr. No. 88 *for* arselkop *read* Harselkop.

Page 111, Sr. No. 120, Col. 8, *for* 1·, *read* 1·7; and Sr. No. 121, Col. 8, *for* 0., *read* 0·3.

Page 123, para. 2·16, line 5 *for* Kanaree, *read* Kanarese.

Page 125, para. 2·20, line 2, *for* s, *read* as.

Page 126, para. 2·26, line 10, *for* he, *read* the.

Page 126, para. 2·26, line 11, *for* a, *read* at.

Page 127, para. 2·31, line 2, *for* languages, *read* language.

Page 130, para. 2·51, line 8, *add* that, *after* fact.

Page 139, para 3·22, line 3, *for* greement, *read* agreement.

Page 147, para. 6·1, line 6, *for* benig, *read* being.

Page 148, para. 6·7, line 2, *for* sage, *read* stage.

Page 151, line 11, for Telgu, *read* Telugu.

Page 157, para. 2·5, line 4, *for* ge, *read* be.

Page 161, Sr. No. 49, Col. 8, *for* 30·8, *read* 30·9.

Page 166, para. 4·15, line 9, *for* Goli-Bet, *read* Koli-Bet.

Page 166, para. 4·17, line 3, *insert* of, between State and Maharashtra.

Page 167, para. 4·18, line 3, *for* memorandum, *read* memoranda.

para. 4·19, line 10, *for* Village, *read* Villages.
line 11, *for* mainained, *read* maintained.

Page 170, para. 5·13, line 10, *for* diety, *read* deity,
para. 5·15, line 2, *for* the, *read* be.

Page 175, Sr. No. 24, Col. 5, *for* 211, *read* 21.

Sr. No. 29, Col. 6, *for* 1, *read* 144.

Page 178, line 12, *for* Kannda, *read* Kannada.

Page 182, para. 8, line 10, *for* Magistrat's, *read* Magistrate's.

line 18, *for* Balthangadi, *read* Belthangadi.

Page 185, para. 23, first line, *for* mmorandum, *read* memorandum.

Page 195, para. 1, line 11, *for* peacefuly, *read* peacefully.

para. 2, line 3, *for* asaragod, *read* Kasaragod.

D.O. No. 1/1/67-MC
COMMISSION ON MAHARASHTRA-MYSORE-KERALA
BOUNDARY DISPUTES.
New Delhi, August 25, 1967.

My dear Home Minister,

By their Resolution of the 25th October, 1966, the Government of India appointed me as the One-Man Commission to enquire into and make recommendations regarding the boundary disputes between Maharashtra and Mysore and Mysore and Kerala. I took charge on the 15th November, 1966. I have now concluded the enquiry and am submitting herewith the report containing my recommendations on the matters entrusted to me.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) MEHR CHAND MAHAJAN.

Shri Y. B. Chavan,
Minister of Home Affairs,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

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PART I—GENERAL

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

On 25th October, 1966, the Government of India appointed me as One-Man Commission for resolving the border disputes between the States of Maharashtra and Mysore, and Mysore and Kerala. The Resolution was in these terms:

> "Taking into consideration the fundamental basis of the reorganisation of States in India and with a view to solving the existing border disputes between the States of Maharashtra and Mysore and Mysore and Kerala, the Government of India hereby appoint a Commission consisting of Shri Mehr Chand Mahajan, former Chief Justice of India, which shall hear the concerned parties and make its recommendations."

1.2. It was said that the recommendations be made after collecting information and ascertaining public opinion.

1.3. The Commission started functioning with effect from 15th November, 1966. It issued a press communique on 22nd November, 1966, inviting memoranda suggesting solutions for resolving the disputes and for fixing a new border line to achieve linguistic homogeneity.

1.4. The States were requested to put in a statement of their claims, the facts and figures supporting them and plans demarcating the suggested border. Members of Parliament and State Legislatures, individuals, associations and public bodies were also requested to send to the Commission their views on the matter along with plans of the border areas marked according to their suggestions by the 15th January, 1967.

1.5. In response to this request 2,240 memoranda have been received. The Commission also interviewed 7,572 persons individually and in groups at the various stations it held its sittings. They are tabulated in Appendices I and II, Volume II. The States of Maharashtra and Mysore stated that they were busy in connection with the General Elections to be held in February, 1967 and requested for extension of time at first till the 1st March, 1967 and later till the 31st March, 1967. They put in their respective claims and statements on 31st March, 1967. The enquiry was held up owing to the elections.

1.6. The Commission in order to appreciate the nature of the claims and to acquaint itself with the terrain of the border areas, their geographical situation and to have a broad view of the urban

and rural areas in dispute visited different areas in dispute at different times. A schedule of these visits, their dates and areas visited is given below:

SCHEDULE

S. No.	*Name of the Place*	*Date on which visited*
1	Belgaum town and suburbs	23rd February, 1967.
2	Nipani town and surrounding villages	24th February, 1967.
3	Khanapur, Haliyal and adjoining villages	25th February, 1967.
4	Chikodi and Athni talukas	26th February, 1967.
5	Karwar	21st and 22nd March, 1967.
6	Belgaum	23rd to 26th March, 1967.
7	Nipani	27th and 28th March, 1967.
8	Poona	5th to 9th April, 1967.
9	Bangalore	19th to 21st April, 1967.
10	Bidar	23rd and 24th April, 1967.
11	Gulbarga	25th April, 1967.
12	Kasaragod	15th May, 1967.
13	Mangalore	16th May, 1967.
14	Kolhapur	18th May, 1967.
15	Jath	19th May, 1967.
16	Sholapur	20th May, 1967.
17	Akkalkot	21st May, 1967.

1.7. By a press note and communications to the Governments concerned it was notified in the first instance that the Commission will hold sittings in camera at Karwar, the District headquarters of North Kanara, and Belgaum and Nipani. It was said therein that individuals, associations, public bodies and all interested in the settlement of the problem can meet the Commission in those areas and acquaint it with their wishes personally. The representatives of both the Governments were permitted to watch the proceedings as observers.

1.8. A very large number of persons from urban and rural areas in dispute in the Districts of North Kanara and Belgaum responded to this invitation and were interviewed by the Commission. They also presented personally memoranda to the Commission during their interviews. The list of all those persons is given in Appendices I and II, Volume II, along with the memoranda presented by them in support of the claims of the contesting Governments or in repudiation of such claims.

1.9. On the second visit, the Commission held sittings at Poona and on the third visit, the Commission interviewed all those who had to offer their views in the Districts of Bidar and Gulbarga and also held sittings in Bangalore. Appendices I and II give the names of the persons interviewed and memoranda received.

1.10. As regards the claim of the State of Mysore to the taluka of Kasaragod, a request was received from the Members of Parliament representing the State of Kerala, requesting that the enquiry about this matter be postponed till a popular Government was formed in that State. The Commission allowed the request as it was considered very reasonable. The popular Government when formed was requested to send in its memorandum to meet the Mysore claim, but there has been no response from that Government. The Governor of Kerala was requested to inform the Commission what his Government's attitude was and the Commission was informed that the Government was in favour of the *status quo* and would not present its case to the Commission, but if the Commission visited the State, the Chief Minister and his colleagues would certainly meet it. The Ministry of Home Affairs was informed about it and directions were asked as to what the Commission should do in this matter. The Chief Minister of Kerala has in a letter to the Commission indicated the views of his Government on this issue.

1.11. The Government of Mysore put in a counter claim for inclusion of the town of Sholapur and taluka of North Sholapur in Karnatak. It also laid claim to the taluka of Chandgad and the whole of the taluka of Akkalkot apart from the villages that the Government of Maharashtra had offered for transfer to Mysore in the talukas of South Sholapur, Akkalkot, Mangalwedha and the talukas of Gadhinglaj and Shirol in the district of Kolhapur and the taluka of Jath in Sangli district. It further claimed the whole of the taluka of South Sholapur and, the whole of the taluka of Jath. Towards the close of the arguments the State of Maharashtra modified its offer withdrawing certain villages from it and in places adding a few villages to the number originally offered. In order to appreciate these claims and the claim of Mysore to Kasaragod, the Commission visited Mangalore, Kasaragod, Kolhapur, Jath, Sholapur and Akkalkot and interviewed all persons of these areas who wished to offer their views about the disputed parts.

1.12. The Commission heard arguments of the parties in Delhi from 1st May, 1967 to 10th May, 1967, before visiting Mangalore and Kasaragod and Sholapur-Kolhapur areas. These arguments related to the claims of the Government of Maharashtra about the villages in the District of North Kanara, District of Belgaum and Districts of Bidar and Gulbarga. Arguments about Mysore's counter claims and about the additional claims of the Government of Maharashtra were heard at Ooty on 10th June, 1967 and subsequent days, as desired by the counsels appearing for all interested. In Appendices I and II, Volume II, the names of persons interviewed and memoranda presented are detailed.

1.13. During the final stage of arguments, Shri M. K. Nambiar, Counsel for Mysore, contended that the State of Mysore had in its memorandum accepted *in toto* the offer made by the State of Maharashtra for transfer of 260 villages in the different areas of that State which had preponderance of Kannada-speaking people and because of this offer and acceptance, the Commission had no jurisdiction to give its adjudication about these areas, that it should merely note these facts in its report and that the partial withdrawal of the offer

at the final argument stage should not be given any consideration. He added that in view of the offer and acceptance, the State of Mysore had led no evidence in support of its claim to these areas and if the Commission decides to adjudicate about these areas and to treat them within the dispute raised, the State of Mysore should be given an opportunity to produce evidence in support of its case. The Commission allowed this reasonable request and the State of Mysore was allowed to lead evidence by affidavits about its respective claims to these areas. An opportunity was given to the State of Maharashtra to put in any rebutting evidence as well. The submission of this Report was thus held up for about a month. The affidavits received for and against from the persons of these areas have been put in Appendix III, Volume II, and have been duly considered by the Commission.

1.14. As regards the case of Kasaragod taluka, the list of persons interviewed and memoranda received is given in Appendices I and II, Volume II.

CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND OF THE DISPUTES

Before making any recommendations on the individual disputes between the States of Maharashtra and Mysore, it is apposite to give the background of these disputes.

2.2. On 10th August, 1953, a Bill was introduced in the House of the People to provide for the formation of the Andhra State. This was a province which approximated as much as possible to a linguistic province and it came into existence on the 1st October, 1953.

2.3. On 22nd December, 1953, the Prime Minister made a statement in Parliament to the effect that a Commission would be appointed to examine "objectively and dispassionately" the question of the reorganisation of the States of the Indian Union so that the welfare of the people of each constituent unit as well as the nation as a whole is promoted. This was followed by the appointment of the States Reorganisation Commission under a Resolution of the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs dated 29th December, 1953. The task of the Commission was set out in para 7 of the Resolution:

> "The Commission will investigate the conditions of the problem, the historical background, the existing situation and the bearing of all important and relevant factors thereon."

2.4. The States Reorganisation Commission took up the task of redrawing the political map of India in the hope that the changes which were to be brought about will give satisfaction to the substantial majority of the Indian people.

2.5. In the Resolution of the Government of India some broad principles were indicated which would govern the problem of reorganisation of States. It was said therein:

> "The language and culture of an area have an undoubted importance as they represent a pattern of living which is common in that area. In considering a reorganisation of States, however, there are other important factors which have also to be borne in mind. The first essential consideration is the preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of India. Financial, economic and administrative considerations are almost equally important, not only from the point of view of each State, but for the whole nation."

2.6. The States Reorganisation Commission formulated four principles on the basis of which they intended to investigate the problem:

(i) preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of India;

(ii) linguistic and cultural homogeneity;

(iii) financial, economic and administrative considerations; and

(iv) successful working of the national plan

2.7. It was observed that the reorganisation of States had to be regarded as a means to an end and not an end by itself and that it will be quite legitimate to consider whether there is on the whole a balance of advantage in any change. Any measure of reorganisation which is likely to create tensions and disharmony must weaken the sense of unity among the people of India and should not, therefore, be countenanced. A balanced approach to the problem appears to be to recognize linguistic homogeneity as an important factor conducive to administrative convenience and efficiency but not to consider it as an exclusive and binding principle, overriding all other considerations, administrative, financial or political; and to ensure that communicational, educational and cultural needs of different language groups are adequately safeguarded; to repudiate the "home land" concept; and also to reject the theory of "one language one State" which is not justified on grounds of linguistic homogeneity, because there can be more than one State speaking the same language without offending the linguistic principle.

2.8. In Part III, Chapter III, the Commission dealt with the formation of the State of Kerala and it said that there was little justification for the Kerala claim to the whole of the South Kanara district. The Dar Commission had included only the Kasaragod taluka of South Kanara in the geographically contiguous area in which the Malaylam language was largely spoken. As a result of the resorting of Census slips, the language figures for this taluka were available. According to these figures, the Malayalam-speaking percentage is about 72. Though Kannadiga opinion in South Kanara concedes the claim of Kerala up to the Chandragiri river, administratively it would be more expedient to join the whole taluka to Kerala than to break it up purely on linguistic grounds.

2.9. The formation of the State of Karnatak was dealt with in Part III, Chapter IV, and it was said that as it had been generally recognised that in the provincial distribution under the British, the Kannadigas suffered most with their area split up into four units in three of which they were at the tail-end and reduced to the position of ineffective minorities. The All-India Congress Committee in 1927, the All-Parties Conference in 1928 and the Indian Statutory Commission in 1930 all recognized the legitimacy of the claim of the Kannadigas to unification. The State was thus comprised of—

(a) the present Mysore State, excluding the portions of the Bellary district as now constituted, namely, the Siruguppa taluka, the Bellary taluka, the Hospet taluka and a small area of the Mallapuram sub-taluka in which the dam and the headquarters of the Tungabhadra project are situated;

(b) the four Kannada-speaking districts of the southern division of Bombay, namely, Belgaum except for Chandgad taluka, Bijapur, Dharwar and North Kanara;

(c) the districts of Raichur and Gulbarga;

(d) the South Kanara district except the Kasaragod taluka;

(e) the Kollegal taluka of the Coimbatore district of Madras; and

(f) Coorg.

2.10. It was observed that the territorial limits of Karnatak broadly covered the Kannada-speaking areas, but in the case of one or two small units, linguistic considerations were subordinated to other compelling reasons.

2.11. The compelling reasons were stated in para 332 in the following terms:

> "It seems that Shri Justice Misra was mainly guided by what he described as "linguistic gravity" although he took other considerations also into account. On the other hand, we have to be guided by certain principles which can be generally applied. The retention of Kolar district in the Karnataka State and the addition of the major part of Belgaum district to it will, in our opinion, be more advantageous to the new State than the continuance in it of the eastern portion of the Bellary district."

2.12. It was further said that the "linguistic consideration only should not, in our view, be the decisive factor, especially in setting the future of a border tract which cannot be regarded as predominantly unilingual. What has weighed with us in arriving at the conclusion to which we have referred is the cumulative effect of three main considerations, namely, administrative convenience, economic links and the importance of the Tungabhadra project to the Rayalaseema district of Andhra."

2.13. The Chandgad taluka of Belgaum district is predominantly Marathi-speaking and it was established as a result of the resorting of Census slips that the Marathi majority in the taulka was as big as 92.4 per cent. It could *conveniently be administered by the State of Bombay*, and Karnatak should have no objection to this proposal.

2.14. As regards the remaining ten talukas of Belgaum district, it was claimed that two of them, Khanapur and Belgaum (including Belguam town) as well as portions of Chikodi taluka, had closer affiliations with the Marathi-speaking districts of Bombay than with the adjoining areas in the proposed Karnatak State. The Marathi majorities in Khanapur and Belgaum talukas were slight: being 53.9 and 51.4 respectively. Six out of the remaining seven talukas were predominantly Kannada-speaking, and in the seventh, namely, Chikodi, the Kannadigas constituted the largest single language group. All the talukas of Belgaum district have economic relations with both the Marathi as well as the Kannada-speaking areas. The Belgaum town is the centre of the transit trade in this area; which is chiefly in cotton and oilseeds. Neither the Belgaum town nor the other disputed areas have any particularly marked economic

affiliations with the Marathi-speaking districts of Bombay. There was no case, therefore, for detaching either Khanapur or Belgaum or portions of Chikodi from the rest of the Belgaum district.

2.15. It was argued that Belgaum town has an absolute Marathi majority and due consideration should be given to this factor. Separate mother tongue figures for this town were not compiled during the last census. In the past, however, for a variety of reasons, it attracted a steady stream of immigrants from many areas. Even if it is admitted that this town has now a Marathi majority, in view of the very slight Marathi majority in the taluka of Belgaum and the fact that economic relations are not particularly marked with any linguistic area, the future both of the taluka as well as of the town should more properly be decided on administrative grounds. If as many as nine out of the eleven talukas go to Karnatak (Chandgad going to Bombay and Belgaum being disputed) then, on administrative grounds, the Belgaum town, which is the district headquarters, along with the Belgaum taluka, should also go to Karnatak. The Bellary town along with Bellary taluka has been allocated to Andhra, although the town, according to Shri Justice Misra's report, did not have a predominantly Andhra complexion. Similarly the Belgaum town should go to Karnatak.

2.16. The State of Bombay was comprised of the existing Bombay State minus the Abu Road taluka of Banaskantha district, the Karnataka districts of Dharwar, Bijapur, North Kanara and the district of Belgaum (except the Chandgad taluka), plus the areas of Osmanabad, Bhir, Aurangabad, Parbhani and Nanded districts of the Hyderabad State, Saurashtra and Kutch.

2.17. The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (Act No. XXXVII of 1956), was passed by the Parliament that year. During the pendency of the Bill in Parliament a number of amendments and readjustments of various territorial boundaries were suggested but almost all of them except regarding Bellary were rejected. Bellary area was allotted to Karnatak. The Home Minister declared on more than one occasion that there were still differences of opinion regarding various territorial adjustments and that he would prefer any such readjustment of territories lying on the common borders of the States to be deferred for consideration and settlement by the Zonal Councils, which bodies had been authorised specifically to deal with such boundary matters.

2.18. In the year 1957, the Government of Bombay submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs suggesting readjustment of border areas between Bombay and Mysore States. It was stated in this memorandum that while the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, settled in the highest democratic forum of the country, the main framework of the reorganisation of States, a large number of marginal territorial adjustments still remained to be considered. Parliament provided a machinery in the shape of the Zonal Councils specifically for the consideration of such boundary matters and for consequential readjustments of territories. It was contended that so far as the demarcation between the Marathi-speaking and

Kannada-speaking areas along the common boundaries of the Bombay and Mysore States was concerned, the decisive factor unquestionably has been the principle of linguistic homogeneity. It was observed that any territorial ambition *per se* on the part of any State would be totally inapposite as well as improper in the present context, as every State is an integral part of the Union of India. It was further said that any such readjustment of boundaries would in any case involve only marginal territorial gains or losses. The issue had to be considered from the point of view of the greatest convenience of the populations affected rather than from the viewpoint whether more or less area of territory would be acquired or lost on balance by a particular State. It was stated that it was in this spirit of accommodation and entirely with a view to serve the better convenience and interest of the largest number of the affected people of both language groups along the borders of the two States, and not for the purpose of any territorial aggrandizement, that the Government of Bombay approached this issue. It would be desirable *prima facie* to make such territorial adjustments as would minimise to the farthest possible extent the numbers of persons along the border, who would be incommoded by being left out on the other side of the administrative frontier comprising the main body of its linguistic group.

2.19. In para 7 of its memorandum, the Government of Bombay stated—

> "The States Reorganisation Commission no doubt desired to confine themselves to the 'district' as a unit whilst setting out the broad outline of linguistic reorganisation. This consideration, while no doubt relevant for arriving at the first view of the main framework of distribution of areas among States, is not sufficiently specific and accurate when it comes to the actual demarcation of boundaries between two States where the demarcation purports to be on the linguistic principle. In fact, in its proposals for demarcation of boundaries, the States Reorganisation Commission itself found it necessary to go to a level much below that of the district. In the territorial changes in the formation of new States, Parliament has had to go down to the level of the taluka and indeed in some cases even to the level of the circle."

2.20. An important point for consideration is that the district does not necessarily furnish a dependable unit of geographical or organic unity. Large parts of the present territory of the district of Belgaum, for instance, were parts first of the district of Bellary in Madras Presidency and later, of a much larger district of Dharwar in the earlier days of British rule. More recently, since 1949, owing to the merger of States in the Southern Maratha county, whose territories were greatly mixed up in this area, a population of some 5 lakhs was added to the population of Belgaum district together with an accession of a thousand square miles of its area. It would appear that equally the 'taluka' would fail to furnish a measure of stable organic unity just like the district.

2.21. While the village might be taken as the unit for purposes of demarcation of boundaries, for obvious reasons such demarcation could only be in respect of contiguous territory. Obviously, no 'islands' or 'corridors' could be allowed to be created while undertaking such readjustment of boundaries. There may have to be exceptions to the general principle of linguistic demarcation by the village. Every such exception will have to be considered on the merits of each individual case and established before it is accepted.

2.22. The general position was summarised as follows:

> "The demarcation of boundary between the State of Bombay and the State of Mysore having been in the main linguistic, for the readjustment of territories along the border the guiding principle must be that of linguistic homogeneity. It is the obvious duty of those in whom the appropriate authority is reposed, to demarcate this boundary so as to leave the problem of linguistic minorities in its smallest size. For the purpose of such demarcation neither the 'district' nor the 'taluka' nor the 'circle' would provide a dependable organic entity and that we must be prepared ultimately to fall back when necessary on the primary unit of habitation, namely, a village. For obvious reasons such demarcation can be in respect of only contiguous territory without leaving 'islands' and 'corridors'. While the initial presumption would lie in favour of a readjustment of territories bringing the largest number of people speaking a particular language within the frontiers of the State comprising the major linguistic group, such a presumption may be rebutted if sufficiently strong factors point to the contrary in a particular case. These factors would include considerations of geographical unity, economic affiliation or administrative convenience."

2.23. It was submitted that the proposals for readjustment of boundaries were entirely tentative and were intended merely to illustrate how such readjustment would redound to the benefit of both the language groups and to indicate the order of size of the population involved in such readjustment. This tentative demarcation had been made having in view exclusively the consideration of linguistic contiguity. Circumstances may exist where the initial presumption may be rebutted by other cogent considerations such as communications, economic affiliation, administrative requirements, etc.

2.24. The States Reorganisation Commission added the taluka of Chandgad to the State of Bombay, Marathi-speaking population being 92·4 per cent. In the adjoining Belgaum and Khanapur talukas, the Marathi-speaking population outnumbers the Kannada-speaking population, being 49·8 per cent and 54·3 per cent as against 35·5 per cent and 34·5 per cent respectively. In the Chikodi taluka the Marathi-speaking population is 42·1 per cent as against the Kannada-speaking population, which is 49·3 per cent. However, the Marathi-speaking population is concentrated in the western part of the taluka which is contiguous with Kolhapur district and the rest

of the Marathi-speaking tract. According to the line of demarcation drawn up by the Government of Bombay, 2,89,878 Marathi-speaking population would be rejoined to the contiguous mainland of the Marathi-speaking area. In certain other small areas of the talukas of Hukeri and Athni in Belgaum district, there are a number of villages contiguous with the Marathi-speaking area, with a Marathi-speaking majority.

2.25. In this memorandum it was said that it was a disputed question between linguists whether Konkani should be regarded as a dialect of Marathi or as an independent language originating from the common Prakrit, the progenitor of both. However, there is no dispute that in its structure as well as vocabulary, this language is closely affiliated with Marathi.

2.26. In the Akkalkot, South Sholapur and Mangalwedha talukas of Sholapur district, in Jath taluka of South Satara district and in Shirol and Gadhinglaj talukas of Kolhapur district, there were compact areas wherein there was a preponderance of the Kannada-speaking people as against the Marathi-speaking people. In Akkalkot taluka 23·3 per cent speak Marathi as against 55·5 per cent who speak Kannada. In South Sholapur taluka 32·2 per cent speak Marathi as against 48·1 per cent speaking Kannada. In Mangalwedha taluka 79 per cent speak Marathi and 13·8 per cent Kannada. In Jath taluka 52 per cent speak Marathi and 40·2 per cent speak Kannada. In Shirol taluka, while 50·6 per cent speak Marathi, 36·6 per cent speak Kannada. In Gadhinglaj taluka the percentage of Marathi and Kannada speakers is 61·1 and 32·3 respectively. As in the case of Belgaum areas, here also the Bombay Government suggested that the demarcation between Bombay and Mysore States should be reviewed and the boundries adjusted so as to transfer to the Mysore State continguous Kannada-speaking areas.

2.27. In three talukas of Bidar district of the former Hyderabad State, *viz.*, Humnabad, Bhalki and Santpur, there was a substantial proportion of Marathi-speaking people. These talukas which stand included in Bidar district of the new Mysore State lie immediately to the east and south-east of Udgir and Nilanga talukas and the Marathi-speaking population is concentrated mainly in the western parts of the talukas, adjoining Bombay State.

2.28. In the 28 villages of Humnabad taluka, tentatively demarcated, Marathi-speaking population is 63 per cent and Kannada-speaking 16 per cent. In the 49 villages of Bhalki taluka, Marathi-speaking population is 59 per cent and Kannada-speaking 30 per cent. In the 69 villages of Santpur taluka, Marathi population is 60 per cent and Kannada 26 per cent. In Aland taluka of Gulbarga district there is a small compact area wherein there is a preponderance of Marathi-speaking people as against the Kannada-speaking people. This area lies to the immediate south of Omerga taluka of Osmanabad district, which forms part of the new Bombay State. The population of the villages in this area is 4,978 of which 3,356 speak Marathi.

2.29. Claim was made in the taluka of Belgaum for 84 villages, the total population of which was 2,20,389, the linguistic percentage being 61 per cent Marathi-speaking.

2.30. In Khanapur taluka claim was made for 206 villages having a population of 68,522 with 77 per cent Marathi-speaking.

2.31. In the Athni taluka 10 villages were claimed with a population of 20,858, Marathi-speaking percentage being 61.

2.32. In the Chikodi taluka of Belgaum district 41 villages having a population of 1,07,856 were claimed, the percentage of Marathi-speaking being 73.

2.33. In Hukeri taluka 18 villages were claimed with a population of 15,094, Marathi-speaking percentage being 80.

2.34. In the district of North Kanara, in Karwar taluka, 50 villages were claimed with a population of 67,107, Marathi and Konkani speaking population being 78 per cent.

2.35. In Supa taluka of North Kanara district 131 villages were claimed with a population of 17,451, Marathi and Konkani speaking being 84 per cent.

2.36. In Haliyal taluka of North Kanara district 120 villages were claimed with a population of 31,122, Marathi and Konkani speaking being 67 per cent.

2.37. In Bidar district in Humnabad taluka 28 villages were claimed with a popuation fo 22,303, Marathi-speaking being 63 per cent. In Bhalki taluka of Bidar district 49 villages with a population of 47,879 were claimed, Marathi-speaking being 59 per cent. In Santpur taluka of Bidar district 69 villages with a population of 46,669 were claimed, Marathi-speaking being 60 per cent.

2.38. In Gulbarga district in Aland taluka 8 villages were claimed with a population of 4,978 Marathi-speaking being 68 per cent.

2.39. The following villages were suggested to be joined to the Mysore State:

(1) In Sholapur district in South Sholapur taluka 65 villages with a population of 74,679, Kannada-speaking being 57 per cent.

(2) In Mangalwedha taluka of Sholapur district 9 villages with a population of 8,479, Kannada-speaking being 62 per cent.

(3) In Akkalkot taluka of Sholapur district 99 villages with a population of 1,06,403, Kannada-speaking being 68 per cent.

(4) In Jath taluka of South Satara district 44 villages with a population of 51,863, Kannada-speaking being 72 per cent.

(5) In Shirol taluka of Kolhapur district 19 villages with a population of 46,807, Kannada-speaking being 52 per cent.

(6) In Gadhinglaj taluka of Kolhapur district 24 villages with a population of 37,029, Kannada-speaking being 67 per cent.

2.40. In the result 260 villages with a population of 3,25,260 were suggested to be transferred to the State of Mysore from the State of Bombay while 814 villages with a population of 6,70,228 were claimed by the State of Bombay from the State of Mysore.

2.41. The Government of Mysore reacted adversely to the claim made by the Government of Bombay. It, however, admitted that the Zonal Councils had been authorised to deal with all these boundary matters and for readjustment of territories lying on the common borders of the States. What was contemplated was a settlement of minor disputes and not of those of a major character. It said that the Government of Bombay had made an attempt to raise the very disputes which were placed before the Lok Sabha and were rejected either summarily or by a majority of votes. The Lok Sabha in clear terms rejected the principle of demarcation on the ground of linguistic majority and village as a unit. The States Reorganisation Commission was not prepared to transfer any area on the basis of less than a district and for overwhelming reasons an area comprising a taluka. It was also said that no change could be made where the percentage of the people speaking any language was below 70 per cent. The demand for Karwar, Haliyal and Supa talukas was also considered by the Lok Sabha and was summarily rejected. A clause was sought to be inserted in the proposed Act regarding the areas of the Belgaum district. This clause was in these terms:

> "that Khanapur taluka and predominantly Marathi-speaking areas of Belgaum taluka to be determined by a Boundary Commission, and the Nipani Bhag of Chikodi taluka, or alternatively the predominantly Marathi-speaking villages contiguous to Maharashtra State in Athni and Hukeri talukas to be determined by a Boundary Commission be included in Maharashtra."

This amendment was also rejected by the House.

2.42. A strong stand was taken by the Government of Mysore, which stand with great determination they took before the Commission, that the States Reorganisation Commission consisting of three eminent men of our country who after considering the various claims had submitted their report which had been with certain exceptions accepted by the Parliament, had concluded the question of disputes raised by the Government of Bombay and contended that *status quo* should be maintained and there was no ground to alter the existing borders. They repeatedly drew the Commission's attention to the observations of the States Reorganisation Commission that they did not regard the linguistic principle as the sole criterion for territorial readjustments, particularly in the areas where the majority commanded by a language group was only marginal. Atten-

tion was drawn to the remarks of the Dar Commission that it would not be proper to describe any area as unilingual unless the majority of one language spoken in that area was at least 70 per cent and that any area below that should be considered as bilingual or multilingual. The S.R. Commission was in agreement with that view and said that the mere fact that a certain language group had a substantial majority in a certain area should not be the sole deciding factor.

2.43. The Government of Mysore contended that the memorandum of the Government of Bombay involved changes in boundaries over a length of nearly 500 miles from Santpur taluka in the north-east to Karwar in the west of the Mysore State and the entire northern boundary of the State was proposed to be redrawn by pushing the existing boundaries, in certain places further south by 120 miles. The proposals involved the transfer of more than a thousand villages between the two States along a stretch of 400 to 500 miles in a belt, as wide as 150 miles in certain places. It, however, suggested that an adjustment might be possible if the Government of Maharashtra were prepared to restrict its claim to minor boundary adjustments within a ten-mile belt on either side of the existing boundary line.

2.44. The suggestion of the Bombay Government that the dispute should be settled by adopting the Pataskar Formula, which was evolved by mutual agreement of the States of Madras and Andhra had no application for settlement of the disputes now raised. The Government of Mysore further contended that in 1929 at the time of the Marathi Literary Conference held at Belgaum great leaders of Maharashtra including Shri N. C. Kelkar unequivocally recognised that Belgaum was part of Karnatak. It asserted that historically Belgaum district had always been part of the Kannada region.

2.45. Reference was made to the Census of the year 1901 wherein it was said that 65 per cent of the people of Belgaum district spoke Kannada and only 25 per cent of the total population spoke Marathi. It was suggested that the figures of 1951 Census were not quite reliable. In the result all the claims made by the Government of Bombay were individually repudiated for reasons stated above.

2.46. The contention of the Government of Bombay that Konkani was a dialect of Marathi was repudiated and it was claimed that it was an independent language.

2.47. As regards Bidar district, it was said that the Bidar District Congress Committee unanimously requested the Government of Hyderabad to recommend the inclusion of three talukas of Bhalki, Humnabad and Santpur in Mysore State and retain Bidar as a district, if necessary by the inclusion of certain adjoining areas from the district of Gulbarga. The Hyderabad Legislative Assembly when it discussed the States Reorganisation Bill unanimously agreed for the inclusion of these talukas in the State of Mysore. The Chief Minister of Hyderabad in a letter dated 3rd May, 1956, to the Home Minister of the Government of India said that there was agreement amongst all the members about the allotment of different

areas to the three States of Maharashtra, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. This unanimous decision of the Hyderabad Assembly got the approval of the Parliament.

2.48. In order to settle the dispute raised on 25th June, 1957, the Government of Bombay requested that its proposals be placed before the Zonal Council very early. The Zonal Council was unable to decide the matter before the two States of Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed and a new Western Zone came into existence and the Mysore State was taken out of the Western Zone and included in the Southern Zone. At the instance of the Home Minister of the Government of India, Shri G. B. Pant, it was agreed that the dispute concerning the boundary between these two States should be referred to a Four-Man Committee by the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Mysore.

2.49. On 5th June, 1960, the two Chief Ministers made an announcement that it was agreed that the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of Mysore would each appoint two representatives. These four representatives would study and discuss together in detail the cases put forward by the two Governments regarding the disputed border between the two States and report to the two Governments to what extent there was agreement and disagreement about the disputed border with reasons therefor.

2.50. On 30th November, 1960, Shri H. V. Pataskar and Shri M. D. Bhat were nominated by Shri Y. B. Chavan, Chief Minister, Maharashtra, as the two representatives of that Government on the Four-Man Committee. Shri S. Channiah and Shri S. S. Malimath were nominated by Shri B. D. Jatti, Chief Minister, Mysore, as the two representatives of the Government of Mysore on the Four-Man Committee.

2.51. This Committee started functioning on the 23rd January, 1961. It held several meetings at different places. The sixth meeting of the Committee was held in Bombay on 1st and 2nd January, 1962. At this meeting certain issues were framed and discussed. Opinions of each member in respect of each of the issues were recorded. It may be mentioned here that Shri Pataskar asserted under one of the issues that an absolute majority of a language group in a village or a relative majority of a linguistic group should be the criterion for settling the dispute. The representatives of the Mysore Government sharply reacted adversely to this proposition. The only agreement between the four members of the Committee was on the issue of contiguity. On all other matters they differed and separate reports were submitted by the representatives of the two Governments without arriving at any agreement. The result was that this Committee in spite of all its labours for about two years failed to solve the problem. The Pataskar Committee allowed the claim of the Maharashtra State in full and the Mysore members rejected it *in toto*. They were definitely of the opinion that there was no ground whatsoever for disturbing the *status quo* and changing the border line drawn up by the States Reorganisation Commission after a careful study of the problem and upheld by

Parliament. The Mysore members were, however, prepared to make boundary adjustments in minor matters and within ten miles of the borders of the two States, but they did not indicate the exact line of such demarcation.

2.52. The Maharashtra members of the Four-Man Committee made an observation which has some significance. They said that the dispute is not so much about the 1,058 villages or the 13 smaller townships as about the three cities of Belgaum, Karwar and Nipani, and of these three, the most important is the city of Belgaum. When the author of the Report was interviewed by me, I put it to him whether the logical inference from this observation was not that the Government of Maharashtra would be satisfied if they got the city of Belgaum and would not press their dispute about the villages. He candidly said that that inference was possible, but that was not his intention while making those observations.

2.53. Reference was made in the Mysore members report to the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament whereon he said that he did not suppose that the most ideal solutions whatever they might have been, could possibly have been pleasing to everybody.

2.54. Language no doubt is a cementing factor and may bring about harmony, unity and solidarity among the people concerned but it is also likely that it may create exclusivism, if not encourage a spirit of intolerance against other languages. This leads to aggressiveness and expansionism resulting in a sense of irredentism. The crying need of India today is national integration. We have to get rid of such parochialism as communalism, regionalism and the like and foster a feeling of co-operation, unity and strengthen the integrity of the nation.

2.55. It would not be proper to fix general principles. Formulating certain fixed principles for rigid application would create more difficulties in the way than offer a solution to the problem.

2.56. It was said by the Mysore members that the dispute should be settled by fixing taluka as a unit.

2.57. With regard to the offer of the Government of Maharashtra for transferring certain areas where the Kannada-speaking people were in a majority to the Mysore State, the two members of the Mysore Government seemed to agree to the transfer of 24 villages in the Gadhinglaj taluka of Kolhapur district. They also seemed to agree to accept the offer of the Maharashtra Government regarding Shirol taluka of the Kolhapur district suggesting 19 villages to be transferred to Mysore. As regards Jath taluka of the district of Sangli or South Satara, the Government of Maharashtra conceded that 44 villages having Kannada majority might be transferred to Mysore. This offer seems to have the implied assent of the members of the Committee. It was said that the portions marked out by the Government of Maharashtra as Kannada areas of Sholapur district come from three talukas, *viz.*, Mangalwedha, South Sholapur and Akkalkot. It was contended before the Committee that the taluka

of Sholapur was divided into two with the idea that when provinces came to be formed on linguistic basis, the Kannada villages which were bound to go to Karnatak might be marked into a separate taluka and that by thus dividing the taluka the city of Sholapur at least should be saved by separating it from the clearly Kannada areas and putting it in North Sholapur taluka and that close on edge of Sholapur city were Kannada majority areas both to the south and to the east of it. The members of the Committee, however, felt that they were not concerned with the allegations made before them.

2.58. In Mangalwedha taluka the offer was for 9 villages to be transferred to Mysore. Sixty-five villages in the South Sholapur taluka were offered by Maharashtra to Mysore. The offer was quietly accepted with the suggestion that if the theory of kinship of language was applied, as relied upon by the Government of Maharashtra elsewhere, Telugu had greater affinity with Kannada than Marathi and if the people speaking these two languages were added together, they would form a clear majority in Sholapur city. In this state of affairs, it appears possible that Sholapur city may as well be linked to South Sholapur than to North Sholapur taluka.

2.59. The Government of Maharashtra conceded that 99 villages with an area of 436·9 sq. miles and a population of 1,06,403 deserve to be transferred from Akkalkot taluka to Mysore State. The two members of the Four-Man Committee representing Mysore were of the view that the area of the State of Akkalkot will have to be treated as a unit for the purpose of allocation of the area to a particular linguistic State. Out of the 121 villages and 3 towns in the present Akkalkot taluka, 101 villages belonged to the State of Akkalkot, 15 villages to the State of Kurundwad and 5 villages were from the original South Sholapur taluka. So these 5 villages do not adjoin any portion of the South Sholapur taluka. They were near the eastern boundary of Akkalkot taluka. All of them are Kannada-speaking villages. Before reorganisation they were 'islands' or 'pockets'. The fate of these villages has got to be linked up with the adjoining areas of Kurundwad State and of Akkalkot State. There is no question of any special consideration about them.

2.60. The whole taluka of Akkalkot could have been considered as a unit since the two main component parts of that taluka were Akkalkot State which was an independent and autonomous princely State and a portion of Kurundwad State, which was equally a part of an independent and autonomous princely State. Both these components joined together could also have been equally considered as a unit and they could well have been considered as having the status of a district for the purpose of allocation between linguistic States. Considered from this point of view it may be seen that 55·5 per cent of the population of the whole taluka speak Kannada and only 23·3 per cent speak Marathi. Hence the whole taluka deserves to be included in Mysore State. Unfortunately this aspect of the case that these units formed an independent unit was not brought to the notice of the States Reorganisation Commission. That question deserves to be reviewed and reconsidered and the

mistake of placing it in Maharashtra forming it a part of Sholapur deserves to be remedied. Akkalkot which is the headquarters of the taluka is a town with a population of 18,112. It is claimed by Maharashtra on the ground that this town together with a few villages is a Marathi area and the same should be detached from the Akkalkot taluka and retained in Maharashtra. Despite the fact that it was ruled by a Marathi chief, the population of the town is not even one half Marathi-speaking—it is 44 per cent. The position of this town needs special consideration. The linguistic complexion of the town will have to be determined not merely by the percentage of the people speaking one language or the other in that town but also by the language spoken in the villages in the neighbourhood of the town as also the trade and economic relations of the town with the neighbouring villages. Adjoining the limits of Akkalkot town on three sides there are 11 villages. All these are Kannada villages. Out of these 3 or 4 villages are claimed by the Maharashtra Government merely on the technical ground that the percentage of Marathi-speaking people though less than 50 per cent is slightly more than that of Kannada-speaking people. In the considered opinion of the Committee the whole taluka of Akkalkot deserves to be kept in tact and allocated to Mysore.

2.61. Eight villages of Aland taluka are claimed as Marathi-speaking. The total population of these villages is 4,978. Out of them 3,356 are Marathi-speaking. The whole of Gulbarga district and the whole of Aland taluka are Kannada-speaking. This taluka has 129 villages with a population of 1,34,524 of whom the percentage of Kannada-speaking is 48 and of Marathi-speaking is 17. The only point regarding these 8 villages is that Marathi-speaking is 67.5 per cent and the adjoining Omerga taluka is Marathi. These villages are quite close to Aland, the headquarters of the taluka. There is no special reason to detach these 8 villages merely on the ground that the Marathi-speaking population has a majority.

2.62. About Bidar district the Committee expressed the opinion that there was such an agreement and that the agreement so arrived at should not be so lightly interfered with.

2.63. The claim of the Government of Maharashtra for 28 villages with an area of 115.1 sq. miles in Humnabad taluka is not permissible. The population that would be affected by such a claim would be 22,303. The percentage of Kannada-speaking is 48 and the Marathi-speaking is 17, Telugu 11 and others 24. In fact many villages roundabout, including those claimed as Marathi villages in this taluka and also those in Bhalki, have all trade connections with Kalyan where they market their produce. The opinion expressed by the Mysore members on the Committee was that the contentions of the Government of Maharashtra that more people speak Marathi in those villages and that they are contiguous to Maharashtra, are not sufficient grounds for disturbing them from their present position in this taluka.

2.64. As regards the Bhalki taluka, it was said in the report of the Mysore representatives that to the east of this taluka lies the taluka of Bidar, which is a Kannada area. The Government of

Maharashtra has claimed 49 villages in Bhalki taluka. Bhalki is connected with Bidar by road as well as by rail. The distance is only 32 miles. Apart from its being the taluka headquarter, it is a good trading centre in the taluka. The only other place commanding some trade in this taluka is Hulsoor. Hulsoor is a town with Kannada majority of 52 per cent. Most of the villages claimed by Maharashtra have trade relations with Bhalki, if not with Kalyan. Bhalki is linked with Bidar, the district place, both in regard to trade as well as in administrative matters. From what little we gathered from the people who supported the contention that the Marathi villages in the taluka should be transferred to Maharashtra, they were of the opinion that the villages should be transferred along with the town of Bhalki and not if the town is not transferred.

2.65. Sixty-nine villages in Santpur taluka with an area of 218.4 sq. miles are claimed by Maharashtra. The population involved in the transfer will be 46,669.

2.66. Both Aurad as well as Santpur are connected by road to Bidar. The distance between Bidar and Santpur is about 45 miles. Three linguistic groups prior to reorganisation agreed that these villages should go to Karnatak. Communication facilities of these villages are with the taluka headquarters and with Bidar, the district headquarters. No similar facilities of communication are with the talukas of Nilanga or Udgir or with the district place, Osmanabad.

2.67. The Four-Man Committee having failed to resolve the boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Mysore, the agitation continued unabatedly for about four years. The Working Committee of the Congress then asked the two Chief Ministers to sit together and find an amicable solution to the problem. They held meetings together on two or three occasions and in a very cordial atmosphere, but without reaching any conclusion. The boundary talks took place in Delhi, but led to no solution. In October, 1966, the Prime Minister and the Congress President met leaders of both sides in a bid to evolve a compromise formula, but both sides adhered firmly to their stands. A high-power delegation of Congressmen from Maharashtra and Bombay led by the President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee met the Prime Miniser and the Congress President and the Home Minister, and urged upon them that a Commission should be appointed without delay and its terms of reference should be settled by the Working Committee. Otherwise the Opposition parties in Maharashtra would exploit the situation to dislodge the Congress. It was made clear that it would be difficult for the Maharashtra Cabinet to function if there was any further delay in the setting up of this Commission. The matter reached a high pitch when Shri Naik was reported to have been authorised by his Cabinet colleagues to take a tough line in the Working Committee meeting and offer the resignation of the Cabinet, if necessary. The Mysore Finance Minister explained to the Union Cabinet the Mysore stand. A delegation from Kasaragod arrived with a mass petition demanding that the Working Committee should decide in favour of Kasaragod's merger in Mysore.

2.68. It was in these circumstances that the Government of India after all this prolonged tension, which had been aggravated by the Opposition parties ansd groups, decided with the concurrence of the States concerned to appoint the One-Man Commission as mentioned above.

CHAPTER III

CLAIMS

The dispute I have been asked to resolve concerns the following areas claimed by the Government of Bombay in its memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 1957:

(i) 84 villages of the taluka of Belgaum in the District of Belgaum with a population of 2,20,389;

(ii) 206 villages of the taluka of Khanapur in Belgaum District with a population of 68,522;

(iii) 10 villages in Athni taluka of Belgaum District with a population of 20,858;

(iv) 41 villages in Chikodi taluka of Belgaum District with a population of 1,07,856;

(v) 18 villages in Hukeri taluka in the District of Belgaum with a population of 15,094;

(vi) 50 villages in Karwar taluka of North Kanara District with a population of 67,107;

(vii) 131 villages of Supa taluka in North Kanara District with a population of 17,451;

(viii) 120 villages in Haliyal taluka of North Kanara District with a population of 31,122;

(ix) 28 villages in Humnabad taluka of Bidar District with a population of 22,303;

(x) 49 villages in Bhalki taluka of Bidar District with a population of 47,879;

(xi) 69 villages in Santpur taluka of Bidar District with a population of 46,669; and

(xii) 8 villages in Aland taluka of Gulbarga District with a population of 4,978.

3.2. As already stated, the Government of Maharashtra offered the transfer of the following areas to Mysore:

(i) 65 villages in South Sholapur taluka of Sholapur District with a population of 74,679;

(ii) 9 villages in Mangalwedha taluka of Sholapur District with a population of 8,479;

(iii) 99 villages in the Akkalkot taluka of Sholapur District with a population of 1,06,403;

(iv) 44 villages in the Jath taluka of South Satara District with a population of 51,863;

(v) 19 villages in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur District with a population of 46,807; and

(vi) 24 villages in Gadhinglaj taluka of Kolhapur District with a population of 37,029.

3.3. In the statement submitted by the State of Mysore on 31st March, 1967, it laid claims to the following areas which had not been mentioned earlier as disputed ones even before the Four-Member Committee.

(1) the town of Sholapur;

(2) the whole of the taluka of Jath;

(3) the whole of the taluka of South Sholapur; and

(4) the taluka of Chandgad in the District of Kolhapur.

3.4. As suggested by the two Mysore members on the Four-Member Committee, the Government of Mysore reiterated its claim to the whole of the taluka of Akkalkot.

3.5. The Government of Maharashtra also added some additional villages to their claim at the close of the first round of arguments and withdrew their orginal offer to transfer areas in certain talukas to Mysore. They also suggested certain additions and withdrawals during the final arguments at Ooty.

3.6. These disputes have neither been resolved by the Zonal Council nor by the Government of India, nor by the Four-Man Committee appointed by the State Governments concerned or by the meetings held by the Chief Ministers of the States concerned. On the other hand, the tentative claims made became rigid and have been added to by the people of the areas and the Governments concerned. By efflux of time and delay in resolving the disputes, emotions have run very high on either side. It is difficult to separate the grain from the chaff. Public opinion is sharply divided and the evidence produced by the two Governments and the witnesses interviewed by the Commissioin did not give an objective of the situation.

CHAPTER IV

METHODS OF APPROACH.

Before dealing with the individual disputed items I have been asked to lay down some general principles, by the application of which these disputes can be resolved.

4.2. It was argued that the fundamental basis of reorganisation of States in India was linguistic. I have no hesitation in accepting this contention. The State of Andhra in 1953 was formed on linguistic basis. The States Reorganisation Commission also demarcated unilingual States amongst others of Karnatak, Maharashtra and Tamilnad. Subsequently the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed on linguistic considerations. When the Government of India decided to reorganise the present State of Punjab, it was done on linguistic basis. The direction given to the Commission was in these terms:

> "The Commission shall examine the existing boundary of the Hindi and Punjabi Regions of the present State of Punjab and recommend what adjustments, if any, are necessary in that boundary to secure the linguistic homogeneity of the proposed Punjab and Haryana States. The Commission shall also indicate the boundaries of the hill areas of the present State of Punjab which are contiguous to Himachal Pradesh and have linguistic and cultural affinity with that territory. The Commission shall apply the linguistic principle with due regard to the census figures of 1961 and other relevant considerations. The Commission may also take into account such other factors as administrative convenience and economic well being, geographic contiguity and facility of communication and will ordinarily ensure that the adjustments that they may recommend do not involve breaking up of existing tehsils."

4.3. The learned counsel for the State of Mysore argued that the present One-Man Commission had not been given any such direction or directions as were given to other Commissions in the past. He contended that the recital in the preamble of the Commission's charter "that the Government of India taking into consideration the fundamental basis of reorganisation of States in India" did not amount to a directive to the Commission. It indicated only the reason for the appointment of the present Commission. The Commission was left free to resolve the disputes not necessarily on linguistic basis. It could adopt the principles laid down by the S. R. Commission in settling the disputes or could evolve its own principles in determining it. It was not bound to demarcate these borders solely on the basis of linguistic homogeneity. Shri Misra appearing for the Samiti very correctly said that the linguistic principle should not be carried to an illogical and absolutely absured conclusion.

4.4. On a proper construction of the charter appointing the One-Man Commission the inference is clear that the Commission has been told to settle the disputes principally on the ground of linguistic considerations as the States in India have been broadly reorganised on that basis. However, for reasons to be stated which may be of compelling nature, the Commission may take into consideration other factors, namely, communications, geographical conditions, administrative convenience and economic considerations and these may in some cases overweigh the linguistic considerations. This view of the matter was not really disputed by Maharashtra. Therefore, I take it that I have to settle this matter *prima facie* on considerations of linguistic homogeneity except for compelling reasons.

4.5. The Government of Maharashtra and those who supported its contention suggested that the dispute be settled by the application of a formula popularly known as the 'Pataskar Formula', *i.e.*, by taking the village as a unit, its contiguity with the linguistic State and a bare majority of the speakers of the language in the village population, or a relative majority of one linguistic group with the contesting linguistic group. 'Island' villages of such speakers are not to be taken into consideration for merger in a linguistic State. Wishes of the people of the area are to be taken into consideration.

4.6. The States Reorganisation Commission's formula was of district as a unit, with 70% speakers of a language. This was the stand taken by the State of Mysore. It was suggested that in any case an area less than a taluka should not be taken as a unit, and the percentage of persons speaking the language of the State claiming it should not be less than 70% in the taluka.

4.7. In the history of India while demarcating areas on communal or linguistic basis different terminologies have been employed. When India and Pakistan were to be formed, the direction of Parliament was that the Boundary Commission appointed would demarcate majority Muslim areas to make the State of Pakistan. That Commission allocated predominantly Muslim districts to Pakistan. Where the districts were not predominantly Muslim, certain tehsils or even circles having a communal majority were allotted to Pakistan. The Bari Doab Canal tract which included three districts was treated as one area for this purpose. In a part of the tract, there was a Muslim majority but in the whole of it the Hindu and Sikh were in a majority, and the Commission treated that tract as one unit.

4.8. By mutual agreement between certain States certain villages were exchanged between them on the basis of village unit. The same thing happened when the State of Gujarat was formed. In the case of the division of the Punjab, the direction of the Government was that a tehsil be taken as the unit and it should not be broken up. That Commission departed from this direction and treated certain Block Samiti areas for effecting the demarcation.

4.9. Shri Misra appearing for the Samiti rightly conceded that a village could not be treated as a unit in isolation. This will not be a correct approach to the problem. He explained that when we

say that village should be taken as a unit, all that is intended to convey is that certain villages should not be refused to be included in linguistic State, merely because they do not form a taluka or a circle.

4.10. It seems to me that there is no scientific yardstick in deciding matters which concern huge populations and their well being. The decision is taken at the political level and is subject to political pressures. It may be the death of a person who has been fasting for the cause or it may be the threatened fast unto death of another person. To meet such political situations at the political level the leaders of the country evolve solutions and ask a Boundary Commission to demarcate areas according to their political decision. I have not been able to discover any scientific formula evolved by social or other sciences, that a village unit is a proper yardstick for attaining linguistic homogeneity. Luckily in the appointment of this One-Man Commission, no yardstick of a tehsil or village unit has been laid down by the Government of India. No formula can be rigidly implemented and there can be no scientific approach in such matters.

4.11. The Government of Mysore were prepared to concede to Maharashtra predominantly Marathi-speaking areas contiguous to Maharashtra and situated within ten miles deep into the State. This concession based on ten-mile limit is also to my mind illogical. If a compact area predominantly Marathi-speaking and situated within 15 miles deep was found to exist, then how could on the ten-mile formula limit, people living within the next five miles tract be left in the State of Mysore. They did not suggest what areas they had in mind which they were prepared to transfer to Maharashtra. During arguments a line has been drawn by them on the plan indicating the number of villages on the basis of this formula. The Government of Maharashtra on their own formula has given a complete list of villages they are prepared to hand over to Mysore. The Mysore Government despite their willingness to adjust within ten mile limit of Maharashtra any predominantly Marathi-speaking areas have now claimed additional areas from Maharashtra, *i.e.*, the city of Sholapur, the whole taluka of Akkalkot and certain other areas, though their main case was that *status quo* should be maintained. Consistently with their stand of *status quo* it seems rather strange that they are claiming a very large Kannada speaking area from Maharashtra and are also willing to make minor adjustments on the border within a ten-mile deep belt in the Mysore State. Consistency, however, is a virtue that cannot be insisted in matters political.

4.12. It seems difficult to accept the *status quo* formula on the latest thinking on linguistic lines in the formation of the States of Punjabi Suba and Haryana. There was a departure from the district unit and it was said that a tehsil should not be split up.

4.13. In view of the variation in sizes and population of the villages, it is difficult to adopt rigidly the village unit formula. It furnishes no scientific basis for resolving boundary disputes. There must be some uniformity for treating any area as a unit. There is no such uniformity in the village unit formula. Villages in the claimed areas are of different sizes, namely, with populations of

2, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25, 27, 33, 37, 43, 44, 49, 96, 100 and go up to a population of 6,000. So far as I can see these villages have been formed on the basis of mere squatting. Certain villages like Anagol have a population of 5,824, Madhavpur 4,901, Yellur 5,457, Vadgaon 3,023 and Halage 2,683. Area of one mile radius or 12 sq. miles to 15 sq. miles is the size of different villages. These are revenue units demarcated by revenue authorities just like a circle or a tehsil or a district.

4.14. When those who very strongly advocated the adoption of this formula were asked whether a village with a population of two persons speaking a particular language and situated on the border contiguous to a linguistic State should be transferred, the answer was emphatically in the affirmative. It is not possible to call this approach rational. In matters of boundary adjustments small units of this type cannot be considered and Parliament cannot be asked to change the border of States for villages of this type.

4.15. I have indicated elsewhere how villages change complexion. Between 1951 and 1961 Census a considerable number of Konkani-speaking villages became Marathi-speaking and *vice versa* and Kannada majority speaking overwhelming Marathi and *vice versa*. It is difficult to say how they will change complexion by 1971 or may have changed by now.

4.16. The basis of democracy is the Panchayati Raj system. The basic unit is a Panchayat area. Individual villages as well as groups of villages have been given Panchayats. In the various Panchayat Acts, a village is defined and is called a village even if groups of villages form one Panchayat. There may be 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12 or 16 villages in a group. All these villages having one Panchayat are defined as one village. This is the statutory indication of what a village unit can possibly mean. Minimum limit of population for forming a Panchayat ranges between 1,000 to 1,500. This is a more scientific approach than the Pataskar Formula. My view is that where there is a sizable compact tract where a language group predominates and the population is at least round about 20,000 that area may be considered as a unit for resolving the boundary dispute. Such an area may well be joined to the unilingual State adjoining it. There can be no rigidity in its application. It seems to me that one need not confine oneself to an administrative unit like a district or a tehsil or a circle. All these have not formed on the basis of linguistic homogeneity. Even villages were not formed on linguistic basis. Several language groups live in a village. The area, however, should be compact and may include a number of Group Panchayats. Small villages having small populations and unstable speakers of a language group cannot be considered as a good basis for resolving a boundary dispute.

4.17. It was conceded by one of the learned counsels during arguments that if, say, about 10 villages Marathi-speaking on the border have alongside a number of as many as 20 villages Kannada-speaking and all these 30 villages form unit, they may be treated together on administrative grounds, because all the 30 villages taken together form a compact area.

4.18. An argument was raised about the position of uninhabited villages. Shri Nambiar argued that if a village is not habited, there is no question of adjusting it on linguistic basis as nobody is there to speak the language and such villages should remain in the State in which they had been placed by the S. R. Commission Report. On the other hand, Shri Sen urged that uninhabited villages should be with the owners who own the lands in those villages unless some other considerations outweigh and give different indication. Considerations of distance of the area and mixed ownership may come in the way of an uninhabited village being allotted to the State to which a habited village may be allotted, but if there is an uninhabited village forming a pocket amongst the predominantly linguistic villages of a particular language, then that village must go with the other villages to the unilingual State to which they are allotted. In my opinion this is not a matter which can be decided on any rigid principle. Each case of an uninhabited will have to be considered on its own merits and its geographical and other conditions along with the complexion of ownership of land in that village.

4.19. The contention of the Maharashtra Government that a bare majority or a relative majority is sufficient for merging an area in a unilingual State is not sound. The basis of fixed percentages—be it 70 per cent of the S.R. Commission or 60 per cent or so of the Shah Commission or may be even 56 per cent or 58 per cent considered elsewhere—is that the majority should be firm and stable. The S.R. Commission in the case of Khanapur taluka considered 53.9 per cent as slight and declined to allot it to the unilingual State of Maharashtra. This view seems quite sound because an unstable majority is bound to cause unnecessary trouble and hardship in the future. One per cent or two per cent majority of speakers of a particular language may change overnight or in the course of a year or by the time of the next census; then there would be no reasonable ground to keep such an area in a unilingual State and every time one trouble or other may be raised by people of one language group who want to get into their unilingual State. An unstable majority should never be considered in deciding any such problem. The recent elections to the various State Assemblies have demonstrated this fact. In certain State Assemblies the majorities are bare; the result has been that no stable governments have been

formed in such States and the Government changes overnight. The annexed table shows how unsound the proposition of a village unit scheme is and how composition of individual villages is liable to extraordinary fluctuations.

TABLE

SHOWING FLUCTUATION IN THE CENSUS FIGURES OF THE CLAIMED VILLAGES FOR THE YEAR 1951 & 1961

Name of the Village	1951			1961		
	Percentage			Percentage		
	Marathi	Kannada	Others	Marathi	Kannada	Others
Belgaum Taluka						
Kudchi	26·2	73·4		49·2	49·2	
Kanabargi	31·1	66·3		50·4	47·9	
Mahalenhatti	68·7	30·9		94·3	5·7	
Kurihal Kh.	97·7	..	2·3	26·3	73·7	
Bodkenhatti	100·0	..		69·8	30·2	
Chikodi Taluka						
Rampur	36·2	57·9		71.3	19·7	
Kukeri Taluka						
Bellanki	98·3	1·7		..	99·6	0·4
Khanapur Taluka						
Bankibasarikatti	41·7	28·2		..	74·1	25·9
Santpur Taluka						
Ganeshpur	100	..		2·8	93·4	3·8
Jamalpur	97	3		32·3	66·4	
Hakial	27	71	2	..	100	..
Korial	55	21	24	10·6	13·0	76·4
Bhalki Tehsill						
Mirkhal	69	18	12	71·6	11·5	16·9

Name of the Village	1951					1961				
		Percentage					Percentage			
	Population	Marathi	Kannada	Konkani	Others	Population	Marathi	Kannada	Konkani	Others
Haliyal Taluka										
Domgiri	33	..	97·0	..	3·0	40	97·5	2·5		
Shingatgeri	94	6·4	16·0	70·2	..	118	68·6	..	..	31·4
Mainal	18	..	5·6		94·4	69	37·7	60·9		1·4
Rayapattan	23	100	..	..	..	40	47·5	50·0	..	2·5
Vincholi	23	82·6	..	4·4	13·0	227	1·3	31·3	..	67·4
Amge	47	97·9	..	2·1	..	23	..	4·4	..	95·6
Taluka Peta Supa										
Bajar Kumang	76	80·3	3·9	15·8	..	341	48·4	34·0	0·6	17·0
Viral	49	12·2	..	85·7	2·0	54	100·0	..	..	..
Kevarle	90	13·3	..	86·7	..	132	99·2	0·8	..	..
Chaphali	45	100·0	..	..	..	217	39·6	54·8	5·1	..
Velip-Kumbeli	55	20·0	50·9	27·3	1·8	24	100·0	..	..	..
Pusheli	46	39·1	..	60·9	..	10	100·0	..	..	..
Vaini	120	82·5	..	17·5	..	157	2·5	..	96·2	..
Varande	43	100·0	..	..	..	45	2·2	..	97·8	..
Kurandi	27	7·4	3·7	85·2	3·7	222	56·8	18·0	0·9	24·3
Virkhol	105	84·8	6·7	4·7	3·8	241	15·8	7·9	58·5	..
Kukre Kurwade	49	100·0	..	..	..	81	..	..	100·0	..
Pate	79	77·2	..	22·8	..	125	12·0	4·0	76·0	..
Khodli	93	2·2	..	97·8	..	284	98·2	..	..	1·8
Birode	156	4·5	..	95·5	..	97	50·5	..	49·5	..
Akkalkot Taluka										
Jainapur	25	..	84·0	..	16·0	259	0·8	32·4	..	66·8
Mangalwedha Taluka										
Karjal	107	99·1	..	..	0·9	188	..	100·0	..	..
South Sholapur Taluka										
Bandalgi	79	6·3	12·7	..	81·0	14	..	42·9	..	57·1
Khanapur	60	..	100·0	..	..	130	91·5	0·8	..	7·7

Name of the Village	1951 Population	1951 Percentage Marathi	Kannada	Konkani	Others	1961 Population	1961 Percentage Marathi	Kannada	Konkani	Others
Bhandar Kavathe .	2,966	13·2	76·5	..	10·3	4,005	54·2	37·0	..	..
Jath Taluka										
Walsang . .	1,247	45·1	51·6	..	3·3	1,518	92·8	4·7	..	..
Nigadi Bk. . .	320	9·1	70·9	..	20·0	624	62·7	11·7	..	..
Shirol Taluka										
Lat . . .	4,916	31·1	64·6	..	4·3	6,868	91·4	3·8	..	
Alas . .	3,879	28·7	44·0	..	27·3	4,819	64·5	9·3	..	..
Gadhinglaj Taluka										
Hasur-Champu .	2,250	35·7	56·8	..	7·5	2,332	8·70	15·1	..	..
Hebbel . .	1,903	8·9	88·7	..	2·4	1,998	75·3	24·3	..	..
Bugadikate . .	1,336	32·0	67·9	..	0·1	1,644	74·4	25·2	..	..

4.20. It seems to me that the Bombay Government accepted the view of the States Reorganisation Commission that 53·9 per cent majority of Marathi-speaking people in the Khanapur was slight. I say so because in the claim that they made in 1957, they did not claim the whole of the Khanapur taluka, as perhaps claimed before the States Reorganisation Commission on the basis of 53·9 per cent majority. On the other hand, they have only claimed 206 villages in the Khanapur taluka where the majority of the Marathi population is considerably higher than 53·9 per cent. In these circumstances it seems to me that the present contention that a bare majority should be taken as the guide line to decide the fate of the disputed areas is untenable.

4.21. Another argument that has been pressed by the Government of Maharashtra and those who supported its view is that the decision regarding the fate of the areas claimed should be decided only on the basis of 1951 Census and that 1961 Census should be left out of consideration. This seems to me a very desperate argument. Logically it comes to this that the present population of these villages and towns has to be ignored and the population as it existed in 1951 though part or whole of it may have died out, has to be taken into consideration to effect the transfer. It may well happen that in 1951 in a certain village or town the Marathi-speaking people were in a majority of 6 per cent to 8 per cent but by the next census the Kannada-speaking persons have become a majority of 5 per cent to 8 per cent and the Marathi majority has diminished. How could a Kannada majority village then be transferred to a unilingual

Marathi-speaking State. This would be against the very basic principle of the creation of linguistic States. It is a well established principle of law that in deciding any matter all subsequent events and changes so far relevant to the matter under enquiry have to be taken into consideration. In deciding this matter correctly, one has to take into consideration the existing complexion of the town or the village. The 1951 Census was made six years before the claim of the Government of Bombay was lodged. On the other hand, the 1961 Census was made four or five years after this. That seems to give a better indication of the complexion of the various villages and towns though some six years have elapsed and it may well be that the complexion has changed here and there. On the material that has come before me, it appears that the 1961 Census is a better guide in determining the points that have been referred to me but it does not mean that 1951 Census is not also to be taken as a guide and as a piece of evidence. The annexed table shows how Maratha predominant population in certain villages has vanished in 1961 and the villages wholly inhabited by Kannada speakers. How can such villages be transferred to a unilingual Marathi State because in 1951 they were predominantly Marathi speaking?

TABLE

SHOWING THE VILLAGES WHICH WERE PREDOMINANTLY MARATHI IN 1951 CENSUS BUT BECAME PREDOMINANTLY KANNADA IN THE 1961 CENSUS

Name of the Villages	1951		1961	
	Percentages		Percentage	
	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada
Kurihal Kh. (Belgaum) . . .	97·7	..	26·3	73·7
Bellanki (Hukeri)	98·3	1·7	..	99·6
Banki Basarikatti (Khanapur) .	41·7	28·2	..	74·1
Ganeshpur (Santpur)	100·0	..	2·8	93·4
Jamalpur (Santpur)	97·0	3·0	32·3	66·4
Chapali (Supa)	100·0	..	39·6	54·8
Karjal (Mangalwedha)	99·1	..	..	100·0

4.22. Again on the question of contiguity between border villages on one side or the other, it has been accepted that such units must satisfy the test of contiguity to the State claiming it. Such contiguity must be something more than a mere geographical contiguity of lands. It must ensure free mobility and intercourse of the people speaking a language since the question under consideration is the transfer of population. The test is whether the people of the two units have normal facilities to meet each other, have reasonable connection by roads and that there are no natural barriers such as hills and forests to separate them. Two units which have no means of communication or where the geographical boundary runs through a dense forest or over a steep hill and the inhabited areas and cultivated areas on either side are far away from the geographical boundary, there is no real contiguity. Contiguity of a forest on one side or a hill on the other cannot be considered as contiguity to

bring about homogeneity of the people, particularly when the distance between the villages is 8 to 10 miles, with a large forest area intervening and there are no reasonable communications. Such contiguity produces no linguistic homogeneity and transfer in such cases would mean transfer of territories from one State to another. In one case it would be transfer of 93 per cent of the total area of the taluka, the inhabited area being only 7 per cent.

4.23. As regards the counter claim of the Government of Mysore, so far as I have been able to see the taluka of Akkalkot was claimed by Mysore in the Two-Man Boundary Committee Report and that brings the taluka in the ambit of the existing dispute. Similar is the claim for the taluka of Jath. When one has to decide how many villages have to be transferred to Mysore as Kannada-speaking villages, the matter requires investigation, and has been so investigated. As regards the town of Sholapur, the claim was not made at any time. The same is the case with regard to the claim to Chandgad taluka, which the S.R. Commission included in Maharashtra on the ground of 92 per cent majority. Be that as it may, I have made the enquiry and will indicate my decision in individual cases hereinafter. During arguments the Government of Maharashtra put in an additional statement giving up its earlier claim to certain villages and claiming additional villages on the basis of 1961 Census.

4.24. The formula of relative majority percentage beats my comprehension. I asked questions whether it would be reasonable or rational to transfer areas where the percentage of population is, say, 20 per cent Marathi-speaking, 10 per cent Kannada-speaking and 70 per cent other groups like Urdu etc., to a unilingual Marathi-speaking State. It would mean that 20 per cent people of one language group as compared to the other language groups can ignore the 70 per cent population and take them to their linguistic State. This will be an incorrect way of looking at this matter, because a big population of minority language groups would get into unilingual linguistic State and would reduce the percentage of the speakers of that language group in the State. Therefore, I have no hesitation in rejecting the relative majority percentage formula suggested before me by the Government of Maharashtra.

4.25. To one of the learned counsels during the arguments I put the question whether a village whose population was 100—8 per cent Marathi-speaking, 7 per cent Kannada-speaking and the rest Urdu-speaking—should be merged in Maharashtra on the ground of relative majority formula. The counsel promptly answered in the negative. Logically speaking, his answer should have been that it should merge in Maharashtra, because the relative majority between the Marathi-speaking and the Kannada-speaking was 8 per cent. In order to judge the validity of an argument, it is a well-established rule of interpretation to see whether the argument pushed to its logical conclusion does not lead to absurdity. It was in this view that the learned counsel gave the answer in the negative. He, however, suggested that the formula of relative majority may not be pushed to its logical conclusion but it may only be adopted for

demarcating linguistic majority areas where there was a high percentage of one group over the other. Be that as it may, I am, however, of the opinion that when even the bare majority is not sufficient to merge areas in a unilingual State, it is difficult to hold that a relative majority of one language group in a certain village or area should be taken into consideration in resolving such disputes.

4.26. One of the solutions suggested during arguments for reducing the difficulties of minorities experienced by them in a unilingual State was to give them option of migrating to the unilingual States of their choice. All Marathi-speaking people in these villages may be given the option to settle in Maharashtra and similarly, the Kannada-speaking villagers in Maharashtra may be given the option to settle in Karnatak. The transfer of population, if considered a good solution, will involve the problem of their lands and properties. The State Governments concerned will have to rehabilitate them and compensate them for their properties. I have a feeling that if given option, a good number will like to stay as they are and not a very large number will migrate. When India and Pakistan were formed a solution was suggested to a similar effect. It was not accepted, with the result that at least one crore of people shifted from one side to the other, leaving all that they had in their possession and the Governments of India and Pakistan had to face a big problem of rehabilitation. Here the population is not more than a few lakhs—6 to 8 lakhs—and it may not be difficult to accept the solution and to eradicate this trouble of minorities and of adjusting the State boundaries whenever such a situation arises. On the inter-State level compensation and even transfer of some parts of territory may well be considered. Otherwise, any solution suggested by me is bound to leave considerable minority in one State or the other, but if the Commissioner of Linguistic Minorities functions and the States implement his decisions, all the difficulties that the minorities experience can be eliminated.

4.27. I have in the concluding part of the report suggested certain changes in the existing borders between the two States but I strongly suggest that whenever populations of one language group have been left in another linguistic State, areas inhabited by such population should be made strictly bilingual Minority language groups in these areas should have all the facilities provided by the Constitution for bilingual areas.

4.28. It is in my charter that I have to consult public opinion in the matters on which I have been asked to report. As I understand the reference, I have to take into consideration the public opinion at the time of my enquiry and not the opinion that the people may have held in the past. Public opinion is never stable or static. It changes according to the circumstances of the time and locality. I have interviewed a very large number of persons from disputed areas to ascertain their views. I will indicate my impressions when dealing with individual items of the claims. It was very strenuously urged that the results of elections in 1957, 1962 and 1967 were the best guide to ascertain the wishes of the people. It is no doubt true that in these elections the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti fought

the elections on the basis of the linguistic homogeneity and won these elections. In certain areas in the 1967 elections it did not wholly have its way. It will certainly take into consideration this fact while making my recommendations, but I do not think that the election results are conclusive on this point. Different considerations weigh with the voters at the time of the election and these are well known. In these elections the Congress did not join issue with the Samiti on the basis of language. It fought the elections on the manifesto of the Congress Party which did not refer to this question. The results of elections, therefore, in such a situation cannot be taken as a very safe guide of public opinion. Similar considerations apply to the election results in various bodies like the Municipalities and the Taluka Boards. If a poll had been taken on the disputed areas as in Goa, result may well have been different.

4.29. The States Reorganisation Commission also considered the question of the wishes of the people. They observed that the Dar Commission was disinclined to impose the wishes of the majority of the people upon a substantial minority of people speaking the same language. Various bodies who previously went into the question of reorganisation of States attached importance to the wishes of the people in varying degrees. It was said that some of the memoranda received by that Commission, particularly those received from small units, seek the perpetuation of these units on the ground that this would meet the wishes of the people. It is not possible to ascertain with any measure of definiteness what the real wishes of the people in these areas are. It is also clear and it cannot be denied that in a democratic country the wishes of the people of even small areas are entitled to the fullest consideration. But it is equally undeniable that such wishes must be subject to some essential limitations. The wishes of the people of different areas as a factor bearing on reorganisation have, therefore, to be considered together with other important factors such as the human and material resources of the areas claiming statehood and the wishes of *substantial minorities.* I agree with this view. In certain areas claimed by Maharashtra, there are substantial minorities coming up even to 40 per cent and they are all opposed to the claim of Maharashtra.

4.30. Shri Nambiar, counsel for the State of Mysore, argued that in a Federal Union, one State cannot claim the territory of another State; that the present claim of the Maharashtra Government to over 3,000 sq. miles of area from the State of Mysore amounted to a claim of territories allotted to the State of Mysore by the S.R. Commission and the Parliament; and that it, in essence, is not a border dispute but a territorial dispute and is outside the ambit of section 21(2)(b) of the States Reorganisation Act, under the cover of which the claim was made by the Government of Bombay. He contended that the proper forum of such a dispute was the Supreme Court of India and this Commission could not go into it. I am afraid, I cannot accept this contention. The border between Mysore and Maharashtra is not an international border. The whole of the disputed territory belongs to the Indian Union and is vested in it and has been allotted to different States by an Act of the

Parliament. The Parliament under the Constitution has ample authority to redemarcate the borders by enlarging or diminishing the area allotted to a State. It can even do away with the linguistic States and redistribute the country on a zonal basis. Article 3 of the Constitution is a complete answer to Shri Nambiar's arguments. Moreover, the argument is purely academic. This Commission's jurisdiction is derived from the resolution of the Government of India and any recommendation made by it will be considered by that Government, and if accepted will be laid before the Parliament by a regular Bill. It will ultimately be for the Parliament to decide whether it will redemarcate the borders between the States.

4.31. Shri Nambiar also argued that I should take into consideration the financial loss that Mysore will have to incur if the territories claimed by Maharashtra are handed over to it. According to him, Mysore will suffer a loss to the tune of Rs. 133 crores as Belgaum area is a surplus revenue area. To my mind this consideration is not very relevant to the present issue. If any areas according to my recommendations are to be transferred from Mysore to Maharashtra and vice versa, then as between the two States if some problem arises, the Central Government will be able to make compensation or give grants as is usually done.

4.32. All the preliminary points raised during arguments stand decided in this part of the report. Now I proceed to make my recommendations on the individual items of the claims made by the two Governments.

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PART II—RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER I

DISTRICT BELGAUM

I(A): Chikodi Taluka

Portions of Chikodi taluka were claimed before the States Reorganisation Commission for being included in the Marathi-speaking area of the State of Bombay. The S. R. Commission, however, decided that in Chikodi taluka the Kannadigas constituted the largest single language group and, therefore, there was no case for detaching it from the rest of the Belgaum district allotted to the State of Karnatak.

1.2. The Bombay Government in its memorandum in 1957 claimed 41 villages of this taluka with a population of 1,07,856 for merger in Maharashtra. In the Census of 1961 this population has gone up to 1,23,884. In 1951 the Marathi-speaking population constituted 73% in these villages, while in the Census of 1961 this percentage is 74·7.

1.3. The Mysore Government resisted this claim and submitted that there was no ground to reopen the question settled by the S.R. Commission, particularly when amendments moved on this point were rejected by Parliament. It was added that Chikodi taluka was mainly a Kannada area. It was linked with Belgaum district administratively and economically. Most of the villages have trade connections with Nipani, particularly in tobacco, jaggery and other foodgrains.

1.4. The total population of Nipani town according to 1951 Census was 24,325; 16,202 Marathi-speaking. In the Census of 1961 the population has gone up to 29,374, Marathi-speaking being 19,901, 67.8%, Kannada 4,233 and other 5,183. It was contended by the Mysore Government that a large number of Marathi-speaking persons on account of trade and opportunities for employment have come to Nipani and that the locally-born Marathi population was only 50·9% and if the town is separated from the Chikodi taluka, it would lose all its commercial importance. The town has developed as an organic part of the taluka. It would affect the entire economy not only of the town but of the adjoining Kannada-speaking areas if it is included in the State of Maharashtra.

1.5. Geographically, in the west Nipani touches Kolhapur district while immediately to its east lie the undisputed Kannada portions of Chikodi taluka.

1.6. A large number of memoranda have been received by the Commission and considerable numbers of persons of this area have

been interviewed during its sittings in Nipani. The arguments to maintain *status quo* proceed on these lines.

1.7. Nipani is a prosperous trading centre, the chief commodities being gur, tobacco and groundnuts. The merchant community is mainly composed of Lingayats and Jains whose mother tongue is Kannada. Muslims also speak Kannada. For its trade Nipani is entirely dependent on the surrounding Kannada areas of Chikodi taluka. Annexation of Nipani to Maharashtra would reduce its importance as a trading centre.

1.8. There was no institution of higher learning in Nipani till the Karnatak Liberal Education Society stepped into the field in 1961. The Society started a College of Arts and Science in 1961. It is a fullfledged College and is affiliated to the Karnatak University. The percentage of Kannada and Marathi in the taluka of Chikodi is 49·3 and 42·1 respectively. Maharashtra has no claim whatsoever over this taluka.

1.9. Shri Arvind Joshi in his voluminous memorandum strongly urged the maintenance of *status quo*. He, however, conceded that 39 Marathi majority villages including Nipani town to the west of the taluka are contiguous to the Kagal taluka of Maharashtra, but taluka is never split and the claim of Maharashtra even in regard to these villages should be disallowed.

1.10. The Graduates Association urged that right from the historical times Nipani has been a part and parcel of Karnatak. The people of the town are leading a happy and contented life and there is no ground to reopen the issue. It was said that the languages spoken in Nipani are Kannada, Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Telugu and Tulu. A Tobacco Research Institute is run by the Mysore Government. At the time of the formation of the Pradesh Congress Committee under the presidentship of Shri N. C. Kelkar, Nipani Town Mandal Congress Committee was placed in Karnatak. Most of the bidi factories are un by Kannada people. The offices of P.W.D., Co-operative, Education and Police Departments and of other Departments are either at Chikodi or in Nipani. People are well acquainted and familiar with them. Any change would disturb the present smooth running of the administration.

1.11. Electricity is supplied to Nipani and Chikodi taluka by Sherawati Hydro-Electric Project of the Mysore State. Most of the bus routes are linked with Karnatak.

1.12. The Superintendent of Anjuman Muslim Boarding of Nipani said that Nipani should remain in Karnatak.

1.13. Shri A. R. Patil, Deputy Chairman, Village Panchayat Committee, Pattankudi and four members of the Panchayat Committee repudiated Shri D. C. Waghe's credentials to speak on behalf of the Panchayat and said that Pattankudi is situated 3 miles from Nipani town. Population of the village is 6,284, 80% Kannada-speaking. All the people know Kannada well and the village should remain in Mysore.

1.14. The village Panchayat of Benadi passed unanimous resolution for retention of this village in Mysore. The Rambur Panchayat also passed a resolution on similar lines. The delegation of the Chikodi Taluka Congress Committee wanted *status quo* to be maintained.

1.15. The Mahila Mandal of Nipani voted for *status quo*. The Mandal Congress Committee, Khadakalat, Co-operative Consumers Society, Khadakalat, the Town Panchayat Committee, Khadakalat and the Mahila Mandal, Khadakalat, expressed a similar wish. The Samaj of all communities of Khadakalat wanted to maintain *status quo*.

1.16. The Land-owners Association, Nipani, did not want any change. Koganoli village shepherds and the Bharat Consumers Co-operative Society of Koganoli were for maintenance of *status quo*.

1.17. The Group Village Panchayat Committee, Lakhnapur, which is a Marathi-speaking village, wanted to stay in Mysore. The representatives of the Maratha community of Lakhnapur gave similar evidence.

1.18. The Maratha Samaj of Padlihal village did not want change. They said that the agitation has been unnecessarily started by the Ekikaran Samiti. The Harijan Samaj of Padlihal also wanted *status quo*.

1.19. The Chairman of the Village Panchayat Committee, Hunnargi, wanted *satus quo*. The Village Panchayat of Adi wanted to remain in Karnatak. The deputation of the villagers of Adi village expressed a similar desire.

1.20. A deputation of the Merchants Association of Nipani expressed want of confidence in Shri G. K. Manvi, MLA, who on behalf of the Association gave a memorandum for merger in Maharashtra. The deputationists wanted to stay in Mysore.

1.21. The Bar Association of Chikodi which has about a dozen Marathi lawyers and the rest Kannada-speaking, passed a resolution for maintaining *status quo*. The resolution is in these terms:

> "This Special General Meeting of the Bar Association, Chikodi, Distt. Belgaum, resolves that, taking into consideration the long-standing, intimate and cordial relations of the litigating public with the members of our Bar Association, and also taking into consideration every factor conducive to the convenience and welfare of the client world, the present administrative set up of Chikodi taluka, and the jurisdiction of the Courts at Chikodi be kept intact."

1.22. The Karnatak Border Chairman Dr. S. S. Panade said that the whole region of Chikodi was indivisible and, therefore any idea of disrupting it would cause economic difficulties. It is the Gujaratis who form a small but influential section. They come from Bombay and Gujarat, and their leanings are towards Maharashtra. Except for the workers of the Samiti who are obsessed solely with

language, for every other party like Congress, PSP etc., it was a different matter. The Congress candidate could and did contest the election only on Congress principle and manifesto. An issue was not raised on grounds of language.

1.23. Castewise population figures of Nipani town were supplied to the Commission. The estimated floating population was mentioned as 3,500.

1.24. The Principal of the G.I. Bagewadi Arts & Science College, Nipani, said if Nipani is transferred to Maharashtra, the institution, the staff and the students would face great hardship and would be deprived of the support of their donors. They will have ultimately to close down the institution.

1.25. The Village Panchayat Committee of village Walki which is situated two miles from Nipani said that the village has Kannada majority but they also understand Marathi. They were quite happy in the State of Mysore. The Village Panchayat Committee unanimously passed a resolution for *status quo.*

1.26. The Harijan Samaj of village Shiragaon strongly protested against the merger of Shiragaon with Maharashtra. The President of the Mandal Congress Committee, Akkol, supported the case for *status quo* and contended that the attempt to solve the linguistic problem once and for all is a mirage; the only solution is a tolerant attitude and co-operation between the States concerned. A resolution was unanimously passed that the villages of Padlihal, Lakhnapur, Akol, Pangire and Mamadapur be kept as they are.

1.27. Shri S. S. Patil, MLA, from Betkihal, Taluka Chikodi, said that some of the villages claimed by Maharashtra were from his constituency and there Kannada is generally spoken by more than 85% of the people. The villages of Adi, Sidnal and Hunnargi have a Kannada majority of not less than 60%. Wrong mother tongue figures had been collected in the Census. This has been done to snatch away the high Kannada majority village of Benadi. To the east of Nipani town village Pattankudi has a Kannada majority. The Census figures have been wrongly collected in order to make a good claim over Nipani.

1.28. Benadi and other villages have been claimed on the ground of being pockets but they are really not pockets.

1.29. Dr. B. Shankeranand, MP, who has been elected from the Chikodi Parliamentary constituency, said that every village in Chikodi taluka is inter-linked with each other and should not be disrupted. If the western disputed area of Chikodi is taken to Maharashtra, the developmental and other irrigation schemes will be closed down and the existing miner irrigation channels will lose their waters. There would be a deadlock in agricultural economy. He suggested that in adjusting the boundaries between States on the basis of language care must be taken to ensure that the mechanism of power supply remains effective and this part is not exposed to economic peril.

1.30. Shri R. S. Kothiwale, Member, Mysore Pradesh Congress Committee, Nipani, strongly supported the case of *status quo*.

1.31. Shri M. A. M. Khan of Nipani urged that no decision should be taken without consulting the wishes of the minority communities.

1.32. The Tobacco Merchants of Nipani led by Shri S. R. Kothiwale supported the case for *status quo*. The small vyaparies also suggested maintenance of *status quo*.

1.33. The Republican Party of India through Shri K. R. Chavan, President requested that there should be no dismemberment of the Chikodi taluka.

1.34. Shri B. D. Patel of Nipani said that the division of the country on linguistic basis has been an unfortunate decision. We are Indians first and last, having moorings in Karnatak. Our legitimate interest is towards maintaining the culture of the Jain community and the economic strength of the particular tract in which we were born and brought up. Nipani should remain in Karnatak. During the last elections, the play of the finance, violent methods of coercion and mutual recrimination adopted led to the results reflected at that time. Minorities in Mysore State have always enjoyed more than legitimate privileges for their development.

1.35. The Youth Congress of Nipani wanted *status quo* and said that Nipani was a cosmopolitan town. The Muslim community of Shiragaon wanted to stay in Mysore.

1.36. A delegation of the Budihal Multipurpose Society and public of the village Budihal, Taluka Chikodi, said that their mother tongue is Marathi and Lingayats form the minority in the village. Theys are closely connected with the Kannada villages. 1,100 Lingayats will definitely be harassed if the village is transferred to Maharashtra.

1.37. The delegation from Adi village wanted *status quo* to be maintained.

1.38. The Village Panchayat Committee of Hadnal said that they were astonished that in the census book their population has been shown as 92% Marathi mother tongue. It is on the other hand 92% Kannada. The leader of the Sherake Shiddu Govind Maratha Samaj, Hadnal, Chikodi Taluka, said that they were living harmoniously and they wanted no change. Similarly, the Kumbar Samaj of Lakhnapur wanted to remain in Karnatak. The Chairman of the Gram Seva Sahakari Sangh of Hunnargi wanted no change.

1.39. The Chairman of the G.V.S.S. Society, Mangur, wanted no change. The Education Society of Donewadi wanted no change. The community there was the shepherd community. The Kurbar Samaj of Pattankudi wanted to stay in Karnatak. The Chairman of the M.P. Society, Benadi, said that Benadi should remain in Mysore. The Lingayat Samaj of Shirgaon wanted no change.

1.40. Shri S. J. Patil, Member of the Taluka Development Board, Kognolli, who is Marathi by caste and one of the prominent members of the Marathi community of the village, said that he was

firmly of the opinion that *status quo* should be maintained. The Maratha Mandal, Akol, also gave the same opinion.

1.41. Shri S. P. Patil, President, Nagarika Sanghatana, Nipani, said that he was against linguistic principle. The Hotel Owners Association of Nipani was divided in its opinion. Some wanted to stay in Karnatak and others wanted to take Nipani to Maharashtra.

1.42. The Clerks Association wanted *status quo* to be maintained. The School Committee of Yamagarni wanted to stay in Karnataka. The Laxmi Grahak Sahakari Sangh of Nipani wanted *status quo* to be maintained. The Chikodi Taluka Bakery Malakar Sangh, Nipani, wanted *status quo*.

1.43. The Praja Socialist Party supported the Mysore case. So did the Taluka Development Board, Chikodi and added that the common man is not interested at all over the linguistic issue.

1.44. The memoranda submitted by various bodies and individuals for merger of Nipani town and the Nipani Bhag in Maharashtra say as follows:

Twelve villages which originally were in ex-Kolhapur State and are now situated in the Nipani Bhag were under protest included in Chikodi Taluka. They should be restored to Maharashtra. The Nipani Bhag has a predominantly Marathi-speaking population having cultural and social affinities with the contiguous Kolhapur and other districts of Maharashtra. Communication links with Kolhapur are better than with Belgaum. The tobacco trade of this town comes mainly from the Nipani Bhag and the Maharashtra districts of Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara. If Nipani with its surrounding villages is detached from the Chikodi taluka, there will not be any marked effect on the economy of Kannada-speaking areas of the remaining Chikodi taluka.

1.45. It was contended that in the elections to the State Assembly the candidate of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti secured the largest number of votes. Regarding village Benadi, it was said that it is surrounded on all sides by Marathi-speaking population. Transport and communications of the village are with Maharashtra area. It was formerly in a taluka of Kolhapur State. Kolhapur State is at a distance of four miles from Benadi. Twelve villages have passed resolutions for merger in Maharashtra.

1.46. Attention was also drawn to the statistics of primary schools in these 12 villages. Marathi students, boys and girls 3,061; Kannada only 682. Public records of all these 12 villages are in Marathi. At the time of merger the public of these 12 villages expressed their unwillingness to be placed in Belgaum district.

1.47. The President, Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Nipani Bhag, in his memorandum and evidence mentioned that in the 58 villages of which the Commission has been furnished a list, 12 villages are of Hukeri taluka and 45 of the Nipani Bhag. In these 45 are included relative majority villages. In Hukeri Taluka nine villages

have been claimed. These have absolute majority of Marathi speakers. Three villages having equal percentage of Marathi and Kannada, namely, Kanagle, Kanagje and Harajge, are also claimed.

1.48. Shri B. G. Khot, MLA, representing Sadalga constituency in Chikodi taluka as an Independent member said that more than half the village is predominantly Marathi. Four villages on the eastern side are predominantly Kannada and the rest seven villages in the middle part are bilingual—both Kannada and Marathi. In all these 23 villages the merchants and almost all others, keep their accounts in Marathi. The village records are in Marathi. Two villages, Khadaklat and Shirdwad, are merged villages. Previously they belonged to Kolhapur State.

1.49. Shri D. C. Shah, JP, Ex-MLC, Nipani, who interviewed the Commission along with a number of others said that he did business to the extent of Rs. 1 crore in tobacco and that if this area goes to Maharashtra, the business would not be affected because the businessmen could have no difficulty in buying tobacco from the Kannada area.

1.50. The Republican Party, Nipani, passed a resolution for merger in Kolhapur. The members are all Marathi-speaking.

1.51. The Nipani Medical Association urged for merger of Nipani in Maharashtra. Out of 10,000 out-patients a year, 83% are Marathi-speaking.

1.52. The delegation of the Nipani Merchants Association expressed their desire for merger in Maharashtra. It has 150 members.

1.53. Most of the village Panchayats in these 38 villages have passed resolutions for merger in Maharashtra. The Muslims of Mangsuli are for merger in Maharashtra. The Jain Samaj of Nipani wanted merger in Maharashtra.

1.54. Shri G. R. Bhonsale, Member, Village Panchayat Committee, Lakhnapur, along with six other members said that the Village Panchayat has passed a resolution for merger. This is a pocket village.

1.55. The Bharatiya Communist Party supported the case of the Government of Maharashtra.

1.56. The Brahmin Samaj of Nipani wanted merger with Maharashtra.

1.57. Secretary of the Nipani Christian Church Fellowship Centre, Nipani, supported the case of Nipani's merger in Maharashtra.

1.58. Shri M. A. M. Khan, Retired District Educational Officer, put before me certain concrete proposals of his own suggesting transfer of some villages and retaining others. He said that the villagers of Peerwadi, Jatrat, Naganoor, Chikalwal, Yamagarni, Padlihal and Mamadpur wish no change. He suggested transfer of Suligaon, Hadnal, Mattiwade, Bhat-Naganoor, Kurli, Saundalga, Bhivashi, Koganoli and Hanchinal.

1.59. The Vice-Chancellor of the Shivaji University, Kolhapur, said that it would be much better if linguistic States were abolished, but so long as they continue the largest pockets should be dissolved.

1.60. The Kasturba Mahila Mandal, Nipani, strongly recommended merger in Maharashtra. The same was the view of the Bhagini Mandal and Jain Samaj.

1.61. The delegation of Shivaji Tarun Mandal of Nipani wanted merger in Maharashtra. The Gram Panchayat of Shivpur in Hukeri taluka wanted to go to Maharashtra. The Workers Union of Nipani wanted merger with Kolhapur.

1.62. The Newspaper Agents and Book-sellers of Nipani in their interview and memorandum said that there are 15 dailies in circulation in the State of Maharashtra and at Nipani. Some 1,555 issues of different dailies in Marathi are sold at Nipani. Against this, there is only one newspaper in Kannada. Only 60 issues are sold of that newspaper. The Magazine 'Chandoba' is published from Madras in different Indian languages; some 150 copies are published in Marathi, only 25 in Kannada, 3 in Hindi and 2 in Gujarati. They wanted merger in Maharashtra.

1.63. A big crowd had collected in Nipani outside the premises where the Commission was holding its sittings; practically half of this crowd of men and women supported the case of one Government and the other half of the other Government. They had not applied for interview but the Congress people on one side and the Samiti people on the other, had brought them for interviews. The Secretary of the Commission with the help of the police arranged them in queue according to their linguistic complexion and they came one by one before the Commission and gave it their wishes. Several hundred men and women were thus consulted about their wishes in about three hours. All of them had been properly briefed and most of them given cyclostyled copies of memo prepared by either party.

1.64. In some memoranda it was urged that the linguistic principle is disintegrating the country, that no unit less than a taluka should be considered for purposes of demarcation of boundaries and that too if in the unit the percentage of the language group is not less than 70.

1.65. My attention was drawn to the fact that the Government of Bombay in the year 1950 decided that for purposes of official business the language of the taluka would be Kannada.

1.66. The case presented by the Government of Maharashtra on 31st March, 1967, runs on these lines. Nipani Bhag comprises the town of Nipani, 42 Marathi majority villages in Chikodi taluka and 9 Marathi majority villages in Hukeri taluka. It has an area of about 175 sq. miles. The Marathi speaking population is about 1,16,000 and the Kannada speaking population about 21,000. It is surrounded on the south by the Gadhinglaj taluka of the Kolhapur district, on the west by the Kegal taluka of the Kolhapur district, on the north by the Kegal and Hatkanangale talukas of the Kolhapur

district and on the east by the Chikodi and Hukeri talukas of the Belgaum district. It extends along the eastern slope of the Sahydri and lies above the Phonda Ghat which joins this Bhag with the Konkan. Through this Bhag runs the Poona-Bangalore National Highway which joins this area to Kolhapur and other parts of Maharashtra State.

1.67. Nipani is the second biggest town in the Belgaum district with 66.6 per cent Marathi-speaking (now 67.8%). The town has been a famous market of tobacco which is exported to different parts of India and also to Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Aden. Besides tobacco, the other commodities in the market of Nipani are jowar, chillies, groundnut, jaggery and batel leaves. The boundary of Maharashtra is only one mile away from the town of Nipani. It has always been an important centre of Maharashtra culture. The Jawaharlal Nehru Water Works which is the source of water supply to Nipani town stands partly in Maharashtra State and partly in Mysore State.

1.68. The percentage of Marathi-speaking people in the town is 67 while in the Nipani Bhag it is 73. The Kannada-speaking is about 15% in Nipani and in the Nipani Bhag it is 17%. Village records have been maintained in Marathi. The records, minutes and proceedings of the Nipani Municipal Borough have been in Marathi since its inception in 1854. Almost all shops and institutions and business concerns use Marathi to maintain their accounts and in their everyday transactions.

1.69. Majority of the schools both primary and higher secondary have Marathi medium and a very large number of students in these schools are educated in Marathi. The Nipani Bhag has close affinity with Maharashtra owing to linguistic and historical connections of centuries. This area had produced some front-rank Marathi writers. Marathi newspapers and periodicals have a great demand here. The social structure of Nipani Bhag is Maharashtrian. The villages lying within a radius of 15 miles of Nipani serve as the hinterland for the market of Nipani. A large number of these villages are Marathi-speaking. Quantity of tobacco sent to the market of Nipani from villages in Maharashtra and the Marathi majority areas in the Mysore State was much more than the quantity received from the Kannada majority villages in the Mysore State. In short, the economic affiliations of Nipani Bhag are principally with the Konkan, the adjoining districts of Maharashtra and Bombay city and not to any comparable extent with the Kannada districts in the south.

1.70. Due to the fact that the official language of the Mysore State in which Nipani Bhag is placed is Kannada, the people have to put up with a number of hardships. There have been complaints that Marathi-speaking persons are generally denied Government employment on the plea that they do not know Kannada. Marathi students are naturally not able to compete with the Kannada students through Kannada medium.

1.71. In the Nipani Bhag the litigation both criminal and civil, involves consideration of evidence in Marathi language and script.

However, most of the Judges, Magistrates and other staff do not often know even a word of Marathi. Similar is the case in Sales-Tax, Income-Tax and other offices. Because of these hardships the people have been agitating for inclusion of their area in Maharashtra.

1.72. In the general elections of 1962 and 1967, the pro-merger vote was 72 per cent and 60 per cent despite the changed delimitations of the constituencies.

1.73. The Mysore case as stated in their memorandum dated 31st March, 1967, is that Maharashtra claims transfer of 38 villages and 3 towns including Nipani. The area involved is 136·4 sq. miles with a population of 1,07,856. The Kannada-speaking people form 49·3 per cent of the total population of the taluka and Marathi 42·1 per cent. Marathi language seems to have been a super-imposition as a result of the influence of the Marathi Chief who married a Kolhapur princes though he was a Kannada-speaking person.

1.74. It was contended that Nipani geographically lies in the bilingual belt. Nipani has developed into a big town and assumed importance on account of the trade that its market commands. It has developed into a commercial centre for marketing tobacco which has earned country-wide fame and is exported to far off places all over India.

1.75. Jaggery, groundnuts and chillies have been declared as agricultural produce for purposes of regulating the sale and purchase of commodities. The goods taken to the market of Nipani are mostly from Kannada villages.

1.76. In Nipani the floating population forms a large proportion of Marathi population. In May 1950, the Government of Bombay decided that for purposes of official business the language of the taluka of Chikodi was Kannada. The fact that such a decision was taken by the Government of Bombay in which Maharashtrians had a predominant voice at that time is really significant. In the whole of the district of Belgaum, the only taluka that was declared bilingual was Shahapur. All the other talukas were declared to be Kannada, which means that even the taluka of Belgaum was accepted to be Kannada for purposes of official business.

1.77. On account of the requirements of trade of Nipani, an agitation has been carried on by the merchant communities for linking Nipani by rail to Raibag, Bagalkot and further on to Raichur. Nipani has all along developed itself as a trade centre and an organic part of Chikodi taluka which is mainly responsible for feeding this market. Separation of Nipani from Chikodi taluka would affect the entire economy not only of the town but also of the adjoining Kannada-speaking areas and incidentally, of the whole of Karnatak.

1.78. The claim of the Government of Maharashtra that nearly 3/4ths of the commodities that arrive at Nipani market are from the Marathi-speaking areas is too tall a claim to be accepted. The

main food crop in Chikodi taluka is jowar and the important commercial crops are tobacco, groundut and sugarcane. In Chikodi taluka, the total cultivated area under these four crops during the year 1965-66 was 1,67,904 acres. Out of this, 1,19,062 acres lie within the non-disputed area and 48,841 acres within the disputed area in Chikodi taluka. The production of jowar in the entire taluka is 1,56,870 quintals in the Kannada area and 60,165 quintals in the disputed area. On the whole the share in the crops grown in the Kannada areas comes to 71 per cent while that in the disputed portion is hardly 29 per cent.

1.79. In the Nipani market the arrivals of tobacco are mainly from—

(1) pure Kannada villages of Chikodi taluka;

(2) pure Kannada villages of Hukeri taluka;

(3) disputed villages of Chikodi taluka; and

(4) the villages of other Kannada speaking talukas as also of the mixed villages in Belgaum taluka.

1.80. The non-disputed areas contribute more than 84 per cent of the goods marketed at Nipani.

1.81. So far as Gur is concerned, 71·5 per cent arrives into the market of Nipani from the Kannada areas. Chillies from the same area is more than 86 per cent.

1.82. On a careful consideration of the market conditions from various points of view, one can rightly draw the conclusion that Nipani market is economically dependent mostly on Kannada areas. If, therefore, the town of Nipani along with the 38 villages and two towns is transferred to Maharashtra State, the trade of Nipani is going to decline to a considerable extent. Ultimately the trade may dwindle and Nipani may lose its position as a premier market.

1.83. During the sittings of the Commission at Poona and Bangalore some additional memoranda were presented to the Commission about Chikodi Taluka claimed by the Government of Maharashtra, both for and against the claim. Briefly stated they were the following.

1.84. Shri Abhyankar and others on behalf of the Conference of Marathi journalists said that there were complaints on the movement of pro-Maharashtrian people from Nipani to meet the Commission and they were detained by the police.

1.85. Shri C. N. Desai, Advocate, practising in Satara said that the largest single language group was Canarese in Chikodi taluka and that instead of a village as a unit, the revenue circle should have been the criterion adopted by the Commission.

1.86. Shri D. B. Mistri and Shri S. B. Patil, Advocates, said at Poona while interviewing the Commission that Shri Mistry had

started practising in Chikodi but when the State language was made Canarese, he had to shift to Bombay.

1.87. Shri S. B. Chougule presented a memorandum to the Commission at Poona which had been sent in the year 1962 on behalf of certain people to the Chairman of the Western Zonal Council, Bombay, to the President, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee and the Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant and signed in 1962 by a number of persons from certain villages in Chikodi taluka, namely, Galtaga, Nipani, Chikodi, Khadaklat, Nangnur, Yamagarni, Navalihal, Shirgaon, Lakhnapur, Pattankudi, Walki, Chikalwal, Panigire and Peerwadi. His complaint was that the Government of Moharashtra had not included certain villages in their claim in spite of their efforts and all these villages should be merged in Maharashtra. He said that the Government of Maharashtra was not taking care in attending to their representations and their position has become like that of an orphan. None of these persons, however, appeared before the Commission and the only person who was interviewed was Shri Chougule.

1.88. The Mysore Chamber of Commerce met the Commission at Bangalore. They said that Government has invested a large amount of money in Nipani and therefore, *status quo* should be maintained. It is only the Gujarati traders of Nipani who wanted to go to Maharashtra.

1.89. Shri Ganji Veerappa, Devangere, gave evidence at Bangalore. He said that in Nipani Marathi-speaking people are 66 per cent because more Maharashtrians might have come there for business purposes and contended that the present arrangement need not be disturbed. He was against the ten mile limit that the Mysore Government had agreed to readjust.

1.90. Shri A. C. Dave Gowda, Director of Public Instruction, Mysore, gave evidence in Bangalore rebutting the allegations made regarding the posting of Kannada-speaking teachers in Marathi schools.

1.91. The case of the State Government of Maharashtra in this matter was argued by Shri Asoke Sen, supported by Shri K L. Misra, Advocate-General of U.P. appearing for the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti. Shri Singhvi and Shri Naik also helped them. They reiterated the various contentions cited above forcefully.

1.92. Shri Nambiar supported by Shri Datar argued the case on behalf of the Government of Mysore and emphasised with his usual clarity and brevity all the points supporting Mysore Government's contention.

1.93. After a careful consideration of the material placed before me both in the respective memoranda presented to me and statements made during my interviews by a very large number of persons, I have come to the conclusion that the town of Nipani is a predominantly Marathi-speaking urban area with over 67 per cent

Marathi speakers in it. The other important group in Nipani is the Muslim group, who form 6,000 of the population. They were divided in opinion on this point. The Kannada-speaking people, however, wanted the *status quo* to be maintained. Nipani town and the Nipani Bhag villages are contiguous to the Kolhapur district of the State of Maharashtra. Twelve villages were included in the Nipani Bhag at the time of the merger of the Kolhapur State against the protest of the people. The rest of the villages along with the town have a strong Marathi complexion and in the population of these villages there is a high percentage of Marathi-speaking people.

1.94. Keeping in view the linguistic principle on which the States of the Indian Union have been formed, it is not possible to maintain the *status quo* argument of the State of Mysore about these areas. The conclusion I am reaching achieves the maximum linguistic homogeneity and causes the minimum inconvenience to non-Marathi language groups.

1.95. Out of the 41 villages claimed by the Maharashtra Government two of them, Benadi and Hunnargi, have a Kannada majority population. They were claimed on the basis that they formed an enclave in the Maratha area. That contention is negatived by the geographical situation of the area and these, therefore, cannot be included in Maharashtra. They can very well remain with the majority Kannada speakers in the contiguous villages. During arguments claim to these villages was withdrawn.

1.96. Another village, Lakhnapur, has a relative majority of Kannada speakers but this village is surrounded on all sides by the Marathi villages and is a pocket. This village, therefore, will have to be merged in Maharashtra along with the other Marathi majority villages and the town of Nipani.

1.97. I would, therefore, recommend that 40 villages mentioned in the statement attached to the report along with the town of Nipani be merged in Maharashtra and taken out of the jurisdiction of the State of Mysore. On the plan annexed, the demarcation line has been shown in red.

1.98. I was somewhat surprised when Panchayats and people of some of the Marathi majority villages in Nipani Bhag and some Maratha bodies expressed a desire against any change from Mysore to Maharashtra. It, however, seems to me that this rather unusual circumstance was due to pressures of one kind or other on them. In order to negative the strong Maratha complexion of these villages, these persons seem to have been canvassed to express wishes against any change and to show that even Marathi majority village people did not wish to opt for Maharashtra. In my opinion the value of such canvassed opinion in Marathi villages is not such a compelling circumstance so as to rebut the linguistic homogeneity principle.

1.99. I may, however, point out that electricity to Nipani is supplied from the Sherawati Hydro-Electric Project. By legislation that should be kept in tact on inter-state level. Similarly, most of

the foodgrains from the Kannada area in Chikodi taluka are imported in the Nipani town. The Maharashtra Government should undertake not to place any kind of embargo on the free flow of trade as at present into this market. The water supply of this area also comes from the adjoining areas. The present arrangement should be kept intact and not altered except with the consent of both the Governments. The educational institutions started by the Karnatak Liberal Education Society which have done a good deal of work in this field in Nipani should not be interfered with in the matter of medium of instruction. They should be allowed to carry on and develop in the medium of Kannada, particularly when Marathi medium already has an Arts and Science College existing at Arjunnagar and there are various schools in this medium in the town of Nipani. With these safeguards I make the above recommendations.

1.100. The result of my recommendations is that the total population affected is 1,17,783 out of which Marathi-speaking is 89,893. The rest is either Kannada-speaking, Urdu-speaking or other language speakers. The proportion of Marathi-speaking people who on the ground of linguistic homogeneity will be merged in Maharashtra to the minority groups that will be affected is not much. This proportion will not create great minority problem in Maharashtra. Such minorities exist everywhere, but their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution should be fully safeguarded so that they may not suffer any hardships.

1.101. At the close of the arguments at Delhi which took about eight days, the Government of Maharashtra put in an additional statement of their claim. In Chikodi taluka it gave up its claim regarding Benadi and Hunnargi villages. This claim had been seriously pressed in the various memoranda and during the interviews. The Government of Maharashtra, however, laid claims to some additional villages, *viz.*, Walki, Khadaklat, Navalihal, Shiragaon, Girgaon and Gavan. According to 1961 Census, Walki has 51·4 per cent Marathi population, Khadaklat 58·2 per cent, Navalihal 67 per cent, Shiragaon 55 per cent, Girgaon 51·2 per cent and Gavan 16·8 per cent.

1.102. In my opinion this additional claim is outside the existing border dispute which the Bombay Government raised in the year 1957. I, however, examined the complexion of these villages both in the 1951 and 1961 Censuses. In the 1951 Census all these villages had a Kannada complexion and had no appreciable Marathi population. The complexion has somewhat changed in the 1961 Census but the change is not such as would persuade me to admit the additional claim.

1.103. The Maharashtra Government and the Ekikaran Samiti and all those who supported their view have been at the top of their voices claiming that the only Census that matters in this dispute is the 1951 Census and that the 1961 Census must have been influenced by the Mysore Government, who was in power during that Census. The change in the Census figures of these villages in 1961 may well be due to enumerators' errors or their idiosyncracies. The matter

is being considered in 1967 and it is not possible to conjecture how these villages will change complexion in 1971. One thing, however, is clear, that a vast majority of the persons who interviewed the Commission or gave memoranda to it expressed their wishes for maintenance of *status quo*.

1.104. The Khadaklat memoranda and persons who interviewed me were unanimous in maintenance of *status quo*. Similar wish was expressed by the Village Panchayat of Walki and by the Harijan Samaj of Shiragaon. Govan is a Kannada majority village. This village, however, is a pocket in the Marathi majority area and I recommend that it be included in Maharashtra. In Girgaon the Marathi majority in 1961 is very slight. Only in one village the Marathi speakers in 1961 are 67 per cent but the figures are not reliable. Moreover, some of these villages are mere pockets in the predominantly Kannada area. Allegations were made by a number of people that some Maharashtrian enumerators were responsible for treating those who spoke Kannada as well as Marathi as merely Marathi population.

1.105. In the result 40 villages in addition to the town of Nipani and having 76·3 per cent Marathi speakers are recommended for transfer to Maharashtra; 23·7 per cent non-Marathi population is also transferred to Maharashtra. This result achieves the maximum linguistic homogeneity with the least inconvenience to the minority language groups. These villages form a compact Marathi area contiguous to the State of Maharashtra.

STATEMENT

List of 40 villages of Chikodi Taluka, Belgaum District, proposed to be transferred to Maharashtra along with Nipani Town

S. No.	Name of the Village	Population (Absolute)			Percentages		Area in sq. miles
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Adi	2,480	890	1,571	35·9	63·3	5·1
2	Akol	6,046	1,771	4,049	29·3	67·0	3·6
3	Barwad	1,589	284	1,265	17·9	79·6	2·0
4	Bhivashi	1,311	8	1,301	0·6	99·2	4·6
5	Budihal	1,269	25	1,212	2·0	95·5	1·4
6	Hanchinal K. Savgon	1,899	136	1,739	7·2	91·6	2·9
7	Jatrat	3,381	244	2,929	7·2	86·6	4·2
8	Kasnal	604	..	603	..	99·8	1·8
9	Kodni	3,219	109	3,011	3·4	93·5	4·2
10	Kurli	4,818	39	4,762	0·8	98·9	7·4
11	Lakhnapur	1,216	597	591	49·1	48·6	1·3
12	Mangur	3,638	1,290	2,098	35·4	57·7	4·0
13	Padlihal	1,229	45	1,164	3·7	94·7	1·5
14	Saundalga	3,824	91	3,608	2·4	94·3	5·4
15	Shidnal	1,437	574	758	39·9	52·8	1·7
16	Bhatnagnur	609	..	609	..	100·0	1·4
17	Gondikuppi	1,096	58	1,038	5·3	94·7	2·2
18	Hadnal	947	8	936	0·8	98·9	2·0
19	Matiwade	1,085	86	985	7·9	90·8	2·4
20	Shendur	2,104	143	1,960	6·8	93·2	5·5
21	Suligaon	853	2	838	0·2	98·3	1·6
22	Budalmukh	652	12	634	1·9	97·2	0·9
23	Kunnur	4,623	1,154	3,035	25·0	65·6	5·4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	Mamdapur K Lat . .	1,903	183	1,662	9·6	87·3	1·7
25	Manakpur . . .	3,358	636	2,648	18·9	78·9	3·7
26	Pangeri	1,102	39	1,063	3·5	96·5	2·1
27	Yamgarni . . .	1,513	89	1,112	5·9	73·5	3·3
28	Kagnoli	6,699	1,296	4,705	19·4	70·2	9·3
29	Nangnoor . . .	1,489	42	1,445	2·8	97·1	2·0
30	Karadga . . .	6,740	1,390	4,913	20·7	72·9	9·2
31	Shiraguppi . . .	1,997	3	1,988	0·2	99·5	3·5
32	Yarnal	1,372	22	1,332	1·6	97·1	2·9
33	Pangire	913	160	687	17·5	75·3	1·2
34	Tavadi	1,093	9	1,083	0·8	99·1	1·0
35	Pattankudi . . .	5,162	1,428	3,307	27·7	58·8	7·6
36	Chikalwal . . .	1,857	151	1,641	8·1	88·4	4·0
37	Peerwadi . . .	112	9	103	9·0	92·0	0·9
38	Rampur	1,176	232	939	19·7	71·3	1·6
39	Amalzari . . .	1,285	289	919	22·5	71·5	..
40	Gavan	709	489	119	69·0	16·8	1·9
41	Nipani Town . . .	29,374	4,233	19,901	14·4	67·8	8·0
	TOTAL . . .	1,17,783	18,266	89,893	15·5	76·3	135·4

CHAPTER I(B)

HUKERI TALUKA

In the taluka of Hukeri 18 villages comprising an area of 30.6 sq. miles are claimed by the Government of Maharashtra with a population of 15,000, Marathi speaking being 80 per cent.

1.107. The Mysore Government repudiated this claim and said that these villages have always been part of the taluka and there are no grounds to disturb the S.R. Commission's recommendations. It added that 30.6 sq. miles area is not a compact one and is divided in two small tracts and the linguistic principle had no application to such small areas and population.

1.108. Nine out of the 18 claimed villages form part of the Nipani Bhag and are contiguous to the Kolhapur district of the State of Maharashtra. The Village Panchayats of these villages have from time to time passed resolutions expressing their desire that these villages should be transferred to Maharashtra.

1.109. A look at the two plans annexed to the Census of India Handbook prepared in 1955 and the Census of India Handbook 1961 prepared in 1966 indicates the geographical position of the villages claimed. The villages claimed do not form one block in a compact area. The population is also not sizable. It is below 15,000 and I would not have recommended the transfer of any single village of this taluka to Maharashtra, but for the circumstances that nine of these villages on the north form one tract with the villages of the Nipani Bhag which are recommended for merger in Maharashtra. I would, therefore, recommend that these nine villages of the Hukeri taluka may be merged in Maharashrtra along with the villages of the Nipani Bhag. List of these villages with population and percentage of Marathi and non-Marathi is annexed.

1.110. As regards the other villages on the south, the claim of Maharashtra is rejected.

1.111. In the additional claim submitted during arguments, four villages have been claimed. These are Nagnur-K-Daddi, Bidrewade, Attihal and Aldhal. Only one of these villages has Marathi majority. Others have Kannada majority. For reasons given in Chikodi case, I see no ground to entertain this additional claim. Moreover, the population of these villages is very meagre and is not sizable at all for application of the principle of linguistic homogeneity. Complexion of a few villages here and there would continue changing from time to time and it cannot form the basis for merger on the principle of linguistic homogeneity.

STATEMENT

List of 9 villages in Hukeri Taluka which form part of Nipani Bhag and recommended for transfer to Maharashtra

S. No.	Name of the Village	Population (Absolute)				Percentage		
		Total	Marathi	Kannada	Others	Marathi	Kannada	Other
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Bhairapur . .	807	697	106	4	86·4	13·1	0·5
2	Buktealur .	1,232	1,181	37	14	95·9	3·0	1·1
3	Hadalge . .	1,005	838	82	85	83·4	8·1	8.5
4	Hitani . .	1,612	1,392	187	33	86·3	11·6	2·1
5	Nagnur-k-Sholapur	419	353	66	..	84·2	15·8	..
6	Rashing . .	805	745	50	10	92·6	6·2	1·2
7	Shekinhosur .	296	258	36	2	87·2	12·1	0·7
8	Shipur . .	1,557	1,507	50	..	96·8	3·2	..
9	Matiwade . .	1,496	1,379	116	1	92·2	7·7	0·1
	TOTAL .	9,229	8,350	730	149	90·5	7·9	1·6

CHAPTER I(C)

HUKERI TALUKA

In the Athni taluka of Belgaum district ten villages are claimed by the Government of Maharashtra with a population of 20,858, Marathi percentage being 61, according to 1951 Census. These ten villages have an area of 85.7 sq. miles.

1.113. At the close of the arguments claim to Kalloti village was dropped as its population in 1961 was 54.6 per cent Kannada.

1.114. The Government of Mysore contested this claim on the ground that all these villages had been part of this taluka and have developed an organic unity and this unity should not be disturbed.

1.115. In some of the memoranda received by the Commission it is said that for the sake of a few villages the demarcation of boundaries finally decided by the States Reorganisation Commission should not be reopened.

1.116. The geographical situation of these villages is that three are in one pocket—Mangsuli, Lokur and Ugar Khurd—and the rest six are in another pocket.

1.117. Shri D. B. Pawar, Member, Mysore Legislative Assembly and resident of Mangsuli, submitted a memorandum against merger. He said that Mangsuli if transferred to Maharashtra will form a pocket in the State of Mysore. This suggestion has force. He added that Raja Saheb of Sangli has established a sugar factory in Ugar Khurd with Maharashtrian capital of District Sangli. They want to merge this village in Maharashtra. The President of the Taluka Board of Mangsuli says that the village of Mangsuli is on the interior border of Karnatak. Seventy per cent of the villagers are Kannada-speaking and this village can never be merged in Maharashtra. It is near the Athni town.

1.118. During the arguments it became clear that Ugar Khurd and Ugar Bk. two villages really form one integral village. Shri Sen agreed that they were contiguous. The major one is predominantly Kannada and Ugar Khurd is predominantly Marathi-speaking. Both these are so integrated that they have to be taken together, the population then becomes predominantly Kannada.

1.119. Mangsuli in the Census of 1951 had a population of 4,956, Lokur 1,157 and Ugar Khurd 5,675.

1.120. The President, Karnatak Rural Youth League, Mangsuli, suggested no change. He said that he went from street to street to collect figures of the population and reached the conclusion that Marathi-speaking in the town is 43 per cent, Kannada 42 per cent and the rest about 6 per cent. The balance of power rests with the

neutral population and it can never be ceded to Maharashtra on the strength of the Marathi population.

1.121. The Mathrani Commission went from house to house to find out the truth. The village is near Athni town and is not near Miraj.

1.122. Shri A. A. Dhulashetti of Mangsuli in his memorandum said that these nine villages are stray villages coming in the different circles of the taluka. There really the majority of the native population is Kannada-speaking. There has been a sugar factory at Ugar Khurd but shareholders are mostly from Maharashtra. They are trying to take this factory to Maharashtra. They forget that the feeding villages are all Kannada-speaking. Mangsuli is the native place of Shri G. D. Patil, a former Deputy Minister in Maharashtra. Coupled with the efforts of the Maratha Inamdar of Mangsuli, he is trying his utmost to drag his native place in Maharashtra. So to make the question of Mangsuli look large, the villages of Ugar and Lokur are joined together to look like a region deserving consideration. The big landlords of the village are all Marathas. The Marathi landlords have been using force to coerce the Kannada people into submission.

1.123. The Mysore Pradesh Congress Commission in its memorandum said that the majority is manipulated and is not borne out by facts.

1.124. A memorandum has also been received signed by Shri Y. B. Pawar-Desai, President, Taluka Development Board, Athni and many others opposing the inclusion of villages in Athni Taluka in Maharashtra. These villages are—(1) Lokur, (2) Mangsuli, (3) Shinal, (4) Shirur, (5) Pandegaon, (6) Sambargi, (7) Kalloti, (8) Jambagi, (9) Aralihatti, and (10) Bomnal. Language-wise population of Mangsuli as per the records of the Village Panchayat Committee shows that Marathi-speaking households are only 363 with a population of 2,605, Mang 52 households with a population of 319, Chamar 13 households with a population of 77 and Dhor 15 households with a population of 64, *i.e.*, 443 households with a population of 3,065.

Kannada-Speaking population is as under:

Lingayats	177	households	with	a population of	1104
Jains	38	,,	,,	,,	229
Kurabar	85	,,	,,	,,	473
Badigars	14	,,	,,	,,	87
Madar	9	,,	,,	,,	31
Berads	44	,,	,,	,,	252
Talwar	10	,,	,,	,,	39
Pujaris	19	,,	,,	,,	125
Holer	93	,,	,,	,,	690
Korwar	10	,,	,,	,,	70
Waddars	15	,,	,,	,,	81
TOTAL	524	households	with	a population of	3,239.

Muslims 64 households with a population of 345.

1.125. These figures will show that Marathi population is 46 per cent while Kannada population is 48 per cent. This village is not dominated by Maharashtrians.

1.126. When interviewed he said that the limits of Lokur and Mangsuli villages are situated on either side of the State Highway. Shinal is in the interior part or heart of Athni taluka. It is only 5 miles from Athni connected by a village road from Athni. Shri G. D. Patil, former Deputy Minister of Bombay, is a native of Mangsuli who is trying to drag Mangsuli and other villages to Maharashtra. Lokur will be a pocket in Mysore State if transferred to Maharashtra. The President said that his elder brother Shri D. B. Pawar is a Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Mysore State and is strongly opposed to the transfer of any area to Maharashtra. Shinal village is surrounded on all sides by Kannada villages. Similar is the case of Shirur, Pandegaon and Sambargi. The Government of Mysore has constructed a Bhandara by spending Rs. 10 lakhs for irrigation of Kalloti, Jambagi, Shivanur and Masarguppi. Bomnal is an Inam village. The Inamdar is one Shri Deshpande. He said that people of Mangsuli village have come here to oppose their transfer to Maharashtra.

1.127. President, Athni Taluka Primary Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd., Athni, requested that the villages should not be transferred on administrative grounds. They are near Athni.

1.128. The members of the Bar Association, Athni, were against any change. The Village Panchayat of Sambargi opposed the merger.

1.129. The General Body of the Taluka Development Board, Athni, at its meeting dated 25th January, 1967, passed a resolution saying that the claim of the Government of Maharashtra over the ten villages is baseless and the figures given by the Maharashtra Government are false and bogus. In all these villages the mother tongue of more than 60 per cent is Kannada. All these villages are contiguous to Athni town. Looking to the economic, financial and geographical circumstances, these villages are better fitted in Mysore State. The trade transaction of all these villages is with Athni town. People of these villages are very happy as they are.

1.130. The Mysore Government spent about Rs. 7 lakhs for the development of these villages. The language figures given by the Maharashtra Government regarding these ten villages are false and bogus. It was said that in the 1961 Census Lokur had a population of 1,876 and would be a pocket in Mysore State if transferred to Maharashtra. Mangsuli with a population of 6,473 and Kannada 55 per cent will be a pocket if transferred to Maharashtra. Shinal's present population is 775. It is surrounded by Kannada villages. It has Kannada population of 70 per cent and will also be a pocket if transferred to Maharashtra. Shirur has a population of 1,395, Kannada-speaking 55 per cent. Pandegaon's present population is 1,395, Marathi-speaking not more than 45 per cent. Sambargi has a population of 2,063, Marathi-speaking not more than 45 per cent.

The present population of Kalloti is 558, 80 per cent Kannada-speaking. The claim regarding this village has been dropped. Jambagi has a population of 2,250, 60 per cent Kannada. Aralihatti's present population is 1,651, 45 per cent Marathi. Bomnal's present population is 712, 60 per cent Kannada.

1.131. It was said in this memorandum giving the above figures that if transferred to Maharashtra, great injustice would be done.

1.132. In the memorandum of the Government of Maharashtra submitted to the Commission on 31st March, 1967, it was said that in the ten villages of the Athni taluka where the Marathi-speaking population forms the largest single group, the Village Panchayats of all these villages have passed resolutions expressing their desire that the villages should be transferred to Maharashtra.

1.133. The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Mangsuli, Taluka Athni, and Gram Panchayats of eleven villages of the Athni taluka said they were all Maharashtrians. The three villages of Mangsuli, Lokur and Ugar Khurd must be joined to Miraj Taluka in Sangli District. These villages are contiguous to Maharashtra. They have made several representations to the Commission. Similar is the case of other villages. These villages are Shirur, Pandegaon, Sambargi, Kalloti, Aralhatti, Jambagi, Madhabhavi and Bomnal. The four villages are in the separate strip.

1.34. The Government of Mysore repudiated this claim and said that there were no grounds to separating these villages in the Athni taluka and disrupting the administrative unit of the taluka as such.

1.135. I have considered the material placed before me and the arguments regarding these two pockets of the Athni taluka claimed by the Government of Maharashtra. As the claim for Kalloti village has been dropped, the question is whether the nine villages—three in one pocket and six in the other—should be transferred to Maharashtra.

1.136. So far as the three villages are concerned about Mangsuli it can be said that this village has given two Deputy Ministers to the different States and they both disagree on the major issue. During the interviews it appeared that the predominant view was against transfer of Mangsuli to Maharashtra. According to 1951 Census it had a 59·1 per cent Marathi majority. Its population in 1961 Census was 6,473, Kannada being 2,001 and Marathi being 4,042, thus giving 62·5 per cent as Marathi speakers majority. The majority is slight and unstable. The two villages Ugar Khurd and Ugar Bk. taken together has a population of 12,243. Out of this about 5,600 are Kannada and about 5,000 are Marathi, about 1,200 Urdu speakers, 250 Telugu and about 100 are others. Lokur, according to 1961 Census, has a population of 1,876, out of which 665 are Kannada, 1,170 Marathi and 41 Urdu speakers. The total population, therefore, of these villages is roughly about 20,000 in two pockets.

1.137. In my opinion, the three villages neither in size nor in strength of population require any change. Their complexion is not such as would make me recommend their inclusion in Maharashtra. They really form a pocket in the predominantly Kannada area.

1.138. As regards the six others, *viz.*, Shirur, Pandegaon, Sambargi, Jambagi, Aralihatti and Bomnal, they also form a small area within the Athni taluka at one edge in a predominantly Kannada taluka. Their communications are through Athni and their administrative set up is also through Athni.

1.139. According to 1961 Census, Sambargi has a population of 2,063, Kannada 644 and Marathi 1,354; Jambagi 2,250, Kannada 837 and Marathi 1,377; Aralhatti 1,661, Kannada 284 and Marathi 1,319; Shirur 1,530, Kannada 212 and Marathi 1,229; and Pandegaon 1,395, Kannada 68 and Marathi 1,302.

1.140. The 1961 Census shows that the population of these villages is about 9,000 to 10,000; about 3 per cent is Kannada, Marathi population being about 7,000.

1.141. In my opinion neither it is a sizable population nor a sizable area, which can be separated from the Athni taluka and included in Maharashtra. For the benefit of 7,000 speakers of the Marathi language it is not possible to inconvenience about 3,000 speakers of the other language who will experience the difficulties that Marathi speakers may have in Mysore. I, therefore, have no hesitation in disallowing the claim of the Maharashtra Government regarding the villages claimed by them in the taluka of Athni. Linguistic complexion is not such as would require a change. Administrative and economic grounds as well as geographical consideration support the view I have taken.

CHAPTER I(D)

BELGAUM TALUKA (URBAN)

The Government of Maharashtra claims the city of Belgaum on the ground that this town in 1951 Census had a majority of Marathi-speaking people though that majority was only to the extent of 51·2 per cent. The Government of Mysore on the other hand contends that the town of Belgaum has a cosmopolitan complexion, that though the Marathi-speaking people may have a slight majority in the Census of 1961, that majority is also dwindling and that, in any case, on a marginal majority, the town cannot be transferred from Mysore to Maharashtra.

1.143. Without going into the lengthy historical background about the evolution of this town and its development from a small township to an important city, it is best to start with what the States Reorganisation Commission said about it in the year 1956:

> "The Belgaum town is the centre of the transit trade in this area, which is chiefly in cotton and oilseeds. Neither the Belgaum town nor the other disputed areas, however, have any particularly marked economic affiliations with the Marathi-speaking districts of Bombay.
>
> "It has been argued that the Belgaum town has an absolute majority and due consideration should be given to this factor. Separate mother-tongue figures for this town were not compiled during the last census. In the past, however, for a variety of reasons, it attracted a steady stream of immigration from many areas. Even if it is admitted that this town has now a Marathi majority, in view of the very slight Marathi majority in the taluka of Belgaum and the fact that economic relations are not particularly marked with any linguistic area, the future both of the taluka as well as of the town should more properly be decided on administrative grounds. If as many as nine out of the eleven talukas go to Karnatak (Chandgad going to Bombay and Belgaum being disputed) then, on administrative grounds, the Belgaum town, which is the district headquarters, along with the Belgaum taluka, should also go to Karnatak. The Bellary town along with the Bellary taluka has been allocated to Andhra, although the town according to Shri Justice Misra's report did not have a predominantly Andhra complexion. Similarly the Belgaum town should go to Karnatak." (Certain statements of facts contained in the above paragraph have been challenged as inaccurate.)

1.144. The memorandum of the Government of Bombay submitted in 1957 to the Government of India dealt with the town of Belgaum in the following manner:

> "It is stated in the States Reorganisation Commission Report that 'Belgaum is a centre of the transit trade in this area, which is chiefly in cotton and oilseeds.' It may be pointed out that while as a district town Belgaum city has connection with all parts of the former district of Belgaum, the trade and commerce of Belgaum city and its economic and commercial affinities are principally with the below-ghat Konkan talukas and not to anything like the same extent with the eastern Kannada-speaking areas. Belgaum is a centre of transit trade principally with the Konkan." (The claim to the city is on the ground of linguistic majority, geographical contiguity, identity of social structure with Maharashtra and economic affinity with that State).

1.145. The State of Mysore said that the most important claim made by the State of Bombay is about the city of Belgaum. It is claimed on the basis of linguistic majority, geographical contiguity, identity of social structure, village officers and economic affinity.

1.146. It is necessary to observe that the city of Belgaum has always been recognised as a part of the Kannada area and was fixed up as the civil headquarters of the district by an order dated 9th March, 1838, after other places in the district were found totally unsuitable. Belgaum city has been geographically an important city in the Kanada region. It has been the headquarters of the district since 1838 and also the headquarters of the Karnatak Division in the old Bombay State. The District and Divisional Offices of all the Departments pertaining to the Karnatak region have been located in the city. There are Government buildings worth about one and a half crore of rupees. Administratively, it is inconceivable to think of any other place within the region as the district and divisional headquarters.

1.147. A number of Kannada institutions have sprung up and flourished in the city. The Karnatak Liberal Education Society was established in 1918 with its headquarters at Belgaum. It has been running an Arts College, a Science College, a High School and a Training College for the Kannada school teachers. It has also been running a Law College and a Commerce College in its own building costing over Rs. 2 lakhs. Semi-government institutions like the Belgaum District Local Board and the Belgaum District Co-operative Bank have constructed their own offices at considerable cost and it is difficult to imagine how all these centralised activities could be dissociated from their contacts with the other Kannada regions by the inclusion of the city within the limits of the Maharashtra State.

1.148. It may also be remembered that divisional headquarters of the State Road Transport and its workshop are also located here. The population is cosmopolitan in character. The increase in the population of the city of its present figure is due to the fact

that outsiders coming for commerce, professions, services, labour and education have settled in the city. Though the number of Marathi schools at present is more than that of Kannada schools, the essential character of the town would be apparent when it is noticed that in 1881 there were 7 Kannada schools as against 2 Marathi schools in the city. It is not unusual to find such changes in the composition of the population of a cosmopolitan city.

1.149. It was admitted by the State of Mysore that Belgaum is not the centre of trade in cotton and oilseeds as stated by the S.R. Commission but it is equally true that foodgrains, fruits, cereals, jaggery, spices, edible oils, fuels, charcoal, timber, butter, ghee, cotton seeds and oil cakes are imported into Belgaum city from the surrounding Kannada-speaking areas. Considering all the circumstances, Belgaum city is and as accepted in the past by Maharahtrain leaders themselves, has been an important town of the Karnatak region and was rightly retained as an integral part of the Mysore State by the States Reorganisation Commission and by Parliament.

1.150. The two members of Maharashtra on the Four-Man Committee appointed to settle the dispute in 1961 in their report said as follows :

> "The inclusion of the Mysore State into Karnatak brought with it the important towns of Mysore and Bangalore. Bangalore became the capital of this new State. Belgaum city has become comparatively a less important city, being at the tail end of the new State. The objection that there was no capital town in the then proposed Karnatak, was the reason that led the leaders of Karnatak to lay claim to and include the city of Belgaum in their scheme of Karnatak State. That reason no longer existed. Belgaum city is now on a part with the rest of the Marathi-speaking area."

1.151. After acquiring the areas of the talukas of Chikodi, Sampgaon and Parasgad from the Kolhapur State in about 1838, Belgaum was formed into a separate district with Belgaum city as its headquarters. It was a bilingual district comprising both Marathi-speaking and Kannada-speaking areas. Belgaum city has been an important military station in the country. It has always been a Marathi-majority town.

1.152. Before reorganisation in 1956, there were 20 Marathi Primary Schools, 11 Kannada and 10 Urdu-Marathi Primary Schools in Belgaum city. There were 7 High Schools with Marathi medium, one with Kannada medium and 6 with both Marathi and Kannada media. There is a College called the Rani Parvati Devi College at Belgaum. This was started at Sawantwadi, a princely State adjoining Belgaum. Sawantwadi was a purely Marathi area and the College was started to provide education to Marathi-speaking students. The College was shifted to Belgaum in the year 1948, and has been functioning there since then.

1.153. The blood relationship of the Marathi-speaking people of this tract is largely with the people of Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and

other parts of Maharashtra and not with the adjoining Kannada-speaking population.

1.154. By giving the Telugu area of Kolar to Kannadigas, the States Reorganisation Commission created a pocket of Telugu minority in Karnatak. By proposing to give Bellary to Andhra, they suggested the creation of a similar pocket of Kannada minority in Andhra and by their proposal to include the city of Belgaum and the surrounding Marathi area in the Mysore State, they created a Marathi minority in Karnatak. Thus, the only common principle in all these proposals is one of leaving discontent and discord amongst all the three States uniformly.

1.155. The two members in their report further said :

> "We see no valid reasons why Belgaum city in which the Marathi-speaking population is 51.9 per cent and the Kannada-speaking people are only 25.2 per cent of the total population should be treated differently from the villages in the Belaum taluka, in which the Marathi-speaking people have an absolute majority. We do not consider that there are any special circumstances to justify the exclusion of any area in the border of the two States from the application of the above criteria."

1.156. It is urged by the Government of Mysore that the majority should be 70 per cent. There is no merit in such a percentage. Simple majority should be enough.

1.157. The case of the Mysore Government, as advocated by the two Mysore members on the Four-Man Committee, was that historically Belgaum district has always been under the Kannada kingdom. The four Karnatak districts, *viz.*, Dharwar, Bijapur, Belgaum and Karwar, formed a compact unit in one Revenue Division and the headquarters of that unit was Belagum. The Karnatak University Act is a statutory recognition given by the Legislature to the four districts above said that they are Kannada areas. Belagum has been the seat of the Divisional Offices of the Forest and Health Departments and office of the Divisional Inspector of Police is also at Belgaum. Belgaum formed part of the Bombay-Karnatak Postal Division from the earliest times. The language of administration in Belgaum has all along been Kannada.

1.158. Even according to the 1951 Census figures immediately to the east of Belgaum city lie the areas of pure Kannada-speaking villages like Kanabargi, Kudechi, Alarwad and Shindolli. The percentage of Kannada-speaking population of these villages is 66.3, 73.4, 98.1 and 95, respectively. To the east of these villages lie the 9 villages which are claimed by the Government of Maharashtra. They are not contiguous to the city of Belgaum or any other part of Belgaum taluka shown as Marathi-speaking. The said villages form a pocket and are not contiguous to the area claimed by Maharashtra.

1.159. According to the map of Belgaum taluka, which is printed in the Census Handbook, the city of Belgaum is shown right on the border line betwen the areas speaking Kannada on the one side and Marathi on the other. On the western side of Belgaum, the hilly tracts are generally called Malnad. These are mostly forest areas with a few arable patches. It is roughly this area that is claimed to be Marathi-speaking. According to the States Reorganisation Commission, the whole of Malnad area should come under the jurisdiction of one State.

1.160. As a result of the resolution of the Indian National Congress in 1920 for forming linguistic provinces, the Karnatak province was formed including the whole of Belgaum district without any demur from anyone and in 1924, the session of the Indian National Congress invited by the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee was held in Belgaum as one held in Karnatak area.

1.161. Majority body in the Municipality has often been the Marathi people. This is because the more educated and more influential are usualy found among the Marathi people. Maintenance of records by the Municipality in Marathi is regarded by Maharashtra Government as a piece of evidence to show the Marathi character of Belgaum city.

1.162. It would be wrong to decide the question merely on the linguistic composition of the city. The proper consideration would be to see whether the linking of the city with one or the other of the two States would be more beneficial to the people with whom it is linked and also to the city, which is so linked. Cities or places which are to serve the interests of the areas roundabout are also fed and developed by some such areas. A city like Belgaum will have economic relations with Marathi area on the one side as well as with Kannada areas on the other.

1.163. It may be mentioned that in the whole of Belgaum district till very recently Belgaum was the only place where colleges existed. If Belgaum is transferred to the State of Maharashtra, it will cause great dislocation not only to the colleges but to the student world of the entire district. Considerable proportion of the students in these colleges are Kannada-speaking and they hail from places all over the district of Belgaum.

1.164. On the lines on which the two Mysore members on the Four-Man Committee submitted their report to the Government of Mysore, the Commission has now received memoranda from a number of persons. The most important of these is the one coming from the Karnatak Liberal Education Society, Belgaum, submitted on 10th January, 1967. The Society claims a very large number of educational institutions (24 in number) in various places in Karnatak and says that Belgaum is a cosmopolitan city. People speaking Kannada, Marathi, Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages reside there. The lands in Belgaum are mostly owned by Kannada landlords. Kannada inscriptions exist on the Jain Bastis. The political, social, cultural and educational activities of the place have been carried out on all-Karnatak basis.

All parties agreed to the inclusion of Belgaum district in Karnatak in 1920 at the Nagpur session of the Congress. The headquarters of the Provincial Congress Committee and the Karnatak Spinners Association were in Belgaum for a long time. When in 1924 the Indian National Congress session was held in Belgaum with Mahatma Gandhi as the President, it declared that Belgaum was a part of Karnatak. The Karnatak Law Society runs a Law College and a Commerce College there. Belgaum town has always been a part of Karnatak and was formerly never claimed by the Maharashtrians. This claim is of recent origin. Even the late Shri N. C. Kelkar, the great Maharashtrian leader, did not claim Belgaum for Maharashtra.

1.165. From the administrative point of view, Belgaum has flourished as a centre of the Karnatak region. The offices of the Divisional Commissioner, Divisional Inspector General of Police, Superintending Engineer, Divisional Office of the State Road Transport and its Workshop, Southern Divisional Forest, Health and Co-operative Departments, Anti-Corruption and Criminal Investigation Departments, Karnatak Social Education Department and Assistant Charity Commissioner, have all been located in that town. Similarly, several semi-government institutions are located in the town of Belgaum.

1.166. Geographically the town is surrounded by Kannada area on three sides and only on the western side there are a few Marathi villages in the forest region. Belgaum, a flourishing centre of commerce and business as it has been, cannot be linked with any other part except Karnatak, which forms the hinterland to Belgaum geographically, commercially and culturally.

1.167. The Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College was started in 1963 by the Society for the benefit of the people of this area. The Society's assets in Belgaum amount to nearly one crore and fifty lakhs of rupees. If the city of Belgaum is to be included in Maharashtra not only the economic, social and administrative set up of the city of Belgaum will have to face the unsettling and disastrous consequences of reorganisation but there will be a great set-back in the field of education.

1.168. During the past ten years, Belgaum which was a congested town has developed into a modern city. It has developed all elementary necessities of civic life like the underground drainage system, civil hospital and nurses' quarters. There has been enormous progress industrially and electricity has been supplied from Sherawati. An industrial estate has come into existence. An aluminimum factory is going to be established. Belgaum at present ranks next only to Bangalore with every kind of industrial activity from engineering to leather and tanning works. There are 143 registered factories in the city.

1.169. It is interesting to note that though the Maharashtra Government, which is a Congress Party Government, claims the town of Belgaum, the District Congress Committee of Belgaum, on the other hand, has represented that *status quo* should be maintained.

1.170. Shri Arvind Joshi has submitted a printed memorandum to the Commission reiterating all the various arguments above cited. He says in this memorandum that the Belgaum town has its communication links, both rail and road, only with Karnatak area. The only main road leading to Marathi area is the Belgaum-Vengurla Road. The slight majority in the taluka of Marathi people is no ground to transfer this town to Maharashtra. The matter should be decided on administrative grounds. Moreover, the Marathi population does not stand the test of 70 per cent of the S.R. Commission criterion. The western part of this taluka is the source of two rivers of great importance to Karnatak.

1.171. The main target of Maharashtra is the Belgaum town. All the border troubles for the last ten years centered round this town. If as many as 9 out of the 11 talukas go to Karnatak, then on administrative grounds, the Belgaum town, which is the headquarters, along with the Belgaum taluka, should also go to Karnatak.

1.172. The population is entirely cosmopolitan in character. The Maharashtra claim is of very recent origin. Even before the Dar Commission the claim was not seriously pressed. The claim started from the time of the S.R. Commission. Though the claim was put before Parliament, Maharashtra members, specially of the Treasury Benches, did not vote against the clause which retained this area in Karnatak. When the resolution came for opinion to the Bombay Assembly, Maharashtra members consented to the retention of Belgaum and other areas in Karnatak. Now when everything is over, they are creating unnecessary row over the problem.

1.173. The Belgaum District Co-operative Union, Belgaum, has submitted a memorandum dated 23rd February, 1967, through its President, Shri R. V. Deshpande. It says that there is absolutely no reason to depart from the Report of the S.R. Commission, finally accepted by Parliament. They feel that the appointment of the Mahajan Commission was uncalled for and was done under pressure. Belgaum town in particular has developed as a part and parcel of the district and has ever been a part of Karnatak. Neither the Belgaum taluka nor the parts of Khanapur and Chikodi talukas stand to the criterion of the S.R. Commission of 70 per cent. to detach them from the district. Village-wise division is impossible and fantastic.

1.174. Belgaum town is the headquarters of the district and the Bombay-Karnatak Division of the Mysore State and it forms an indivisible administrative part of the district and the division, as also the educational and cultural institutions of Karnatak have their venue in the town. It has all its railway and road connection links mainly with the Karnatak area. Marathi population in the town is not even 50 per cent. The town is cosmopolitan in composition.

1.175. Another memorandum has been submitted by the Karnatak Ayurved Vidyapeeth Society, Shahapur, Belgaum. The Vidyapeeth was founded in 1933 in Belgaum. It says that the S.R. Commission has rightly said that reorganisation should be on a rational and

national basis. Exclusive emphasis on language is bound to encourage linguistic fanaticism and separatist and disruptive tendencies. Many intellectuals have deplored the division of India on linguistic principle.

1.176. Belgaum is a cosmopolitan city with a population of about 1,40,000 speaking different languages. In 1920, when the National Congress included the entire Belgaum district in Karnatak, not a single voice was raised against it. Even the late Shri N. C. Kelkar, the great Maharashtrian leader, did not claim Belgaum for Maharashtra. Geographically, the Belgaum city is surrounded by Kannada area on three sides and only on the western side there are a few Maharashtra villages in the forest region. Reorganisation will cause extreme hardship. *Status quo* should be maintained.

1.177. The Karnatak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hubli, has submitted a memorandum. The Chamber was established in 1928 and its jurisdiction extended to all the Kannada-speaking areas.

1.178. It says that as regards the city of Belgaum, it has been conceded by the leaders of Maharashtra in the year 1929 that it was a part of Karnatak. To allay the suspicions and feelings of the Kannadigas while the Marathi Literary Conference was to be held in the year 1929, a statement was issued by national leaders like Shri N. C. Kelkar that the district of Belgaum was part of Karnatak. Prof. Shivaram Mahadev Paranjpe, the President of the Conference, expressed the same view. In the Nagpur Session of the All India Congress held in 1920, the country was divided into linguistic provinces for administrative purposes. Belgaum was included in the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee. Since time immemorial, Belgaum has been a Kannada area. The history and development of private educational institutions in Belgaum is well worth a study. The earliest institution was one started by the London Missionary Society: it was a Kannada school. The KLE Society first started a High School at Belgaum and then it started the first college in Belgaum. The Society started a Law College also.

1.179. The city of Belgaum is surrounded by rich agricultural tracts. It happens to be the main wholesale trading and distributing centre for the major portion of the district. The Karnatak University Act is a statutory recognition given by the Bombay Legislature that the four districts of Karwar, Dharwar, Belgaum and Bijapur are Kannada areas. These districts formed part of the Co-operation Division in Bombay-Karnatak.

1.180. Electricity and water supply are other basic amenities of life in the city. This colossal amount of water is provided by the Markandeya river, the major part of which flows through the Kannada areas of Mysore. Milk and other products in Belgaum are provided by the Kannada villages. Belgaum market is well known for the supply of quality ghee and butter.

1.181. The Mysore Pradesh Congress Committee, Bangalore, in its memorandum, says about Belgaum city that it is a very important centre of administration and business in Mysore State and is the headquarters of Belgaum district and Belgaum Revenue Division. Its

Marathi-speaking population according to 1961 Census was only 46 per cent. Even in the earlier periods this proportion was never higher. Belgaum has developed considerably during the last decade after its inclusion in Mysore. Belgaum is the centre of communications and the economic life of not only Belgaum district but several neighbouring areas of Mysore State.

1.182. The Belgaum District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Belgaum, says in its memorandum that *status quo* should be maintained. It objects to the linguistic principle as it is harmful to the interest of the nation. It says that Belgaum is a cosmopolitan city. Kannada was the language of the court till 1927. Street names of Belgaum had the impact of Karnatak culture. It repeats most of the arguments already noticed.

1.183. Shri Virupakshi, Ex-Vice President of Belgaum Borough Municipality, Belgaum, says the district is the unit of the State and village is not a direct unit of State. Solely and entirely one language cannot work as a basic tool for the development of industry, finance and literature.

1.184. The Belgaum District Industrial Co-operative Bank requests that the entire border dispute should not be reconsidered. The Sharafa Association of Shahapur, Belgaum has submitted a similar request to the Commission. Shri Neminath Digambar Jain Mandal, Belgaum is also of the same view.

1.185. Shri Hyderasaheb A. Dharwadkar, Belgaum, ex-President of Anjuman Islam, Belgaum and Chairman of the Islamia High School Managing Committee and Director of the Muslim Co-operative Bank, says that no major changes affecting the town of Belgaum and Nipani or any other key position of the district be made. The Muslims form a sizable population, their number being nearly 30,000. Many of them have their Inam lands in Belgaum town. The relatives of the Belgaum Muslims are mostly in Karnatak. Muslims of Belgaum feel that their interests are safe in the hands of the Mysore Government. Historically, Belgaum has been a part of Karnatak since the 11th century.

1.186. The Vidyarthi Prasad Nilaya of Belgaum advanced similar arguments not to reopen the closed topic about boundary.

1.187. The Cloth Merchants Association of Belgaum expressed the same view. Shri Patil and other contractors of Belgaum in a signed representation pressed that no change should be brought about. Shri D. T. Anagol, Forest Contractor, repeats the same arguments. A number of citizens of Belgaum and C. S. Kagwad and Sons in a signed representation object to a change in the boundary.

1.188. Another representation signed by Shri B. J. Desai, General Merchant of Belgaum and many other says that there are no sufficient grounds to reopen the issue already settled. The Metal Merchants of Belgaum have also submitted a memo to the Commission. The Trustees of the Digambar Jain Basti also are of the same view.

1.189. The Jain citizens of Belgaum city in a representation signed by a large number of persons (about 194) requested the Commission to continue the *status quo*.

1.190. Another representation by the Jain community signed by the Secretary, Shri Mahaveer Jain Sangh, Belgaum, unequivocally rejected the splitting of Belgaum town or any other part of district.

1.191. Another representation by the citizens of Belgaum signed by a number of persons subscribed to the same view.

1.192. Shri D. K. Patil, Retired District and Sessions Judge, Belgaum, has advanced arguments for retaining Belgaum taluka in Belgaum district. He was born and bred up in the district, put in judicial service of about 25 years and has experience as advocate for over 15 years. He is firmly of the view that the claim put forth by Maharashtra for inclusion of Belgaum taluka including Belgaum city into the State of Maharashtra is highly unreasonable. The village cannot be taken as a unit for linguistic purposes.

1.193. Shri A. B. Murgod from Belgaum says there are no sufficient grounds for reopening the issue. Election successes are no grounds for changing the border.

1.194. Shri N. V. Vijaya Kumar of Bangalore has submitted a memorandum on behalf of the Kannada Taruna Sangha, Bangalore. He says that it is a strange argument that Maharashtrians are demanding the city of Belgaum with its belt areas. Belgaum district has always been under Kannada kingdom.

1.195. Kannada Sahitya Parishad from Bangalore has submitted a similar memorandum. It is said that administrative divisions are made in the larger interest of economic prosperity and progress of the area concerned. Linguistic homogeneity no doubt is one of the important factors but it cannot bypass the other issues. We are of the opinion that the S.R.C. Act has clearly laid down the principles for settling border disputes. Maharashtra claim is centred round mainly the Belgaum town. Historically Belgaum has been an integral part of Karnatak. The S.R. Commission has observed that neither Belgaum town nor the other disputed areas have any particularly marked economic affiliations with the Marathi speaking areas of the districts of Bombay. There are several institutions located in Belgaum who are playing a prominent role in the life of the district as a whole—District Central Co-operative Bank, District Industrial Co-operative Bank, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, etc. Then there are the educational institutions. Belgaum was a centre of activities for Kannada language during the 19th century. 'Subudhi Prakash'; one of the earliest Kannada weekly papers, was started in Belgaum in 1849. Jnanamanjan, Kathapatrike etc. were the other Kannada periodicals published from Belgaum during the same period. Marathi population of Belgaum city was 51·5 per cent. in 1951. It is understood that this percentage has gone down to 46 in 1961 Census. 1951 Census figures for Marathi were inflated. Shri V. G. Rajadhyaksha, the then Mamlatdar of Belgaum, in his letter of 31st

December, 1939, maintained that Belgaum taluka including the city of Belgaum should remain as a part of Karnatak for administrative reasons.

1.196. The indigenous population of Belgaum city consists mainly of Kannadigas. Jains, Lingayats, Bhois, Weavers, Medars, Holeyas, Deshastha Brahmins, Christians, Totigars and Kumbars are from the Kannada origin, whereas Marathas, Chitpavans, Karhads, Saraswats and Narwekars are from the Marathi group.

1.197. From the records of rights of Belgaum city it is seen that a majority of lands belong to Kannadigas. All the original records in the offices of the Mamlatdar, Collector, Land Records and Village Offices are maintained in Kannada.

1.198. Shri R. R. Diwakar, Ex-Governor, has submitted a note on this dispute. His view is that a real border dispute can exist only between two independent political powers and not between two States of the same and single political power and that the States in India are only for the sake of administrative convenience. Language is also a convenience in a democratic set up. The healthiest principle is to keep the boundaries which have been sanctified by an Act of Parliament on the basis of the recommendations of the high-power States Reorganisation Commission. Any small adjustment is to be brought about by mutual consent. Long before the Parliament enacted a law on this subject in 1956, the question has gone through all possible processes of scrutiny and examination.

1.199. The Congress divided the country for its own organisation principally on linguistic basis in 1920 and included Belgaum, Karwar and other parts in Karnatak. Since 1921 Belgaum has not only been in Karnatak but it has been the centre of all political and other activities and its being in Karnatak was never questioned. In 1924 the Congress Session invited by Karnatak was held in the city of Belgaum. Khadi and many other organisations carrying on constructive work had made Belgaum their headquarters. The Dar Commission for the purpose of examining the question of linguistic provinces, scrutinised the claims about Belgaum and other parts and they accepted Belgaum as part of Karnatak. The S.R. Commission visited Belgaum and went into this question and gave parts of the Belgaum district to the then Bombay State, but rejected the claims of Maharashtrians for Belgaum. The S.R. Commission never accepted the formula of linguistic majority in a village as the proper unit for deciding the State boundaries.

1.200. Territorial claims on the basis of language or any other religious or non-tangible and unsecular basis is sure to lead to the kind of claim that the Muslim League made for Pakistan.

1.201. The claim for Belgaum city among other things is the most untenable. It has been the district headquarters and the divisional headquarters of Belgaum and the Division for decades, and unbreakable links have been forged with all parts of the district. Just to cut these links off and put Belgaum into the laps of Maharashtra because there are thousands of Marathi-speaking people in the place is, to say the least, a sadistic exercise.

1.202. Belgaum is contiguous to Kannada areas and is not an island. The population has only 46 per cent Marathi-speaking people.

1.203. The Loka Shikshana Trust, Hubli, has submitted a memorandum from Bangalore. About the Maharashtra claim for Belgaum city, it says that the claim betrays an aggressive tendency and also a political motive. Belgaum city has been the district headquarters as well as Divisional headquarters for years. Belgaum was never claimed when Congress provincial boundaries were drawn.

1.204. Another representation has been received signed by a large number of people saying that Belgaum, Nipani and Karwar should be retained in Mysore.

1.205. Thirteen memoranda have been received from various bodies in Belgaum urging that the predominantly Maharashtra Villages and areas in Belgaum taluka including the Belgaum city should be merged in Maharashtra. The most important of these is the one from the Marathi-speaking Congressmen in the district who have organised themselves into the Marathi Bhashik Congress Jana Parishad, District Belgaum. Others are from some prominent individuals and from Gram Panchayats.

1.206. The arguments advanced in support of the merger of the town of Belgaum in Maharashtra are more or less the same as have been mentioned earlier. It is said that the population of Belgaum is 83,423 of which Marathi is 43,279, Kannada is 21,047 and others 19,062. This works out Marathi-speaking as 51.9 per cent of the population, Kannada 25·2 per cent and others 22·9 per cent. The majority according to 1951 Census is about one per cent or a little over one per cent. In some of these memoranda while noticing the contention of the Kannada-speaking people of Mysore that in the latest Census the Marathi majority has dwindled to 46 per cent, it is said that the figures have been manipulated in the latest census.

1.207. Other arguments advanced in these memoranda for inclusion of the city of Belgaum in Maharashtra are—

(i) that Belgaum is surrounded by Marathi-speaking villages more than the Kannada villages;

(ii) cultural pattern is predominantly Marathi as also the ownership of houses;

(iii) Belgaum city has more connection with the southern portions of Ratnagiri district than the Karnatak area;

(iv) the Municipality of Belgaum has passed several resolutions that this town should be kept in Maharashtra (it is said that the Municipality was superseded by the Mysore Government merely because of these resolutions);

(v) Belgaum serves the surrounding rural areas which are predominantly Marathi;

(vi) the claim of Mysore for the city of Belgaum on administrative grounds is not sustainable. The southern division consists of six districts in all, two of which—Ratnagiri and Kolaba—are entirely Marathi districts. The districts of Karwar and Belgaum are bilingual districts of Marathi and Kannada. Only two districts—Bijapur and Dharwar —are Kannada districts;

(vii) the S.R.C. had recommended the transfer of Belgaum town to Karnatak on the same ground as they had recommended the allotment of Bellary town to the Andhra State. The Government of India did not accept the recommendation of the S.R.C. for the transfer of Bellary to Andhra on administrative grounds. The same reasoning holds good in the case of Belgaum city also. Belgaum town and the Marathi-speaking areas in the Belgaum district were gifted to the Mysore State in lieu of Bellary town and taluka. This was not justified.

(viii) Belgaum city is situated on the eastern slope of the Sahyadari mountains and is intimately connected with the Konkan, *i.e.*, the southern part of Ratnagiri district for trade and commerce, social customs, language, culture and religion. The trade connections of Belgaum with Konkan are from ancient times even before the regular highways were constructed;

(ix) Belgaum city is not a central or convenient place for the administration of the district since the distance between the Belgaum city and the eastern boundary of the district is about 60 miles, northern boundary about 70 miles and north-eastern boundary more than 100 miles, while the southern and western boundaries are 20 miles and 7 to 8 miles after the separation of the Chandgad taluka;

(x) the trade and commerce of Belgaum is mainly from and to the Marathi area of Ratnagiri, Goa and Karwar on the western side and the persons engaged in this trade are the Marathi people of Belgaum and not of Kannada. The villages in Chandgad taluka depend upon Belgaum city for their day to day life and for transacting their business with the district authorities as well as sub-divisional authorities they have to go to Belgaum and then to Kolhapur. The Marathi-people are treated as a subordinate community in the Mysore State and their legitimate grievances are ignored. Laws passed by the Mysore Legislature and the rules are never published in Marathi;

(xi) the claim of Kannada on Belgaum city is baseless and is prompted by the ruling caste Lingayats who have some vested interests in Belgaum. In the city Marathi population is predominantly higher than Kannada, which can be seen from the number of primary schools and students attending them. The number of Kannada primary schools is 15 and students 8,021 while Marathi primary schools are 36 and students 80,932;

(xii) it is suggested that a new Marathi-speaking Belgaum district may be created with the following areas:—

(a) the whole of Khanapur taluka;

(b) the present Belgaum taluka including Belgaum city but excluding the small Kannada part;

(c) the Chandgad taluka;

(d) Ajra taluka from Kolhapur district; and

(e) Vengurla, Malvan and Kudal talukas of Ratnagiri district;

(xiii) simple majority is the basis of democracy and it is arbitrary to insist on a 70 per cent majority. The higher percentage may be relevant to the formation of linguistic States but not to the adjustment of boundaries between the two States;

(xiv) in areas where there is no absolute majority of any linguistic group, it may be fair to take the relative majority into consideration. During the last ten years, the Mysore Government instead of maintaining the *status quo* in the disputed areas has taken steps to Kannadise them. It would be unsafe to rely exclusively on the forthcoming elections. Belgaum is the main bone of contention. Culture of the town is predominantly Marathi and it can be ascertained and verified by a casual impartial visitor. The Mysore Government can choose any place as the district headquarters and ask for reasonable compensation from Maharashtra for putting up necessary buildings;

(xv) the present office-bearers of the Belgaum District Congress who hold office because of Kannada majority in the district are the immigrants from the Kannada parts of the district. Not one of them belongs to Belgaum, holds any property or has the least stake in the political, social or economic life of the city;

(xvi) Belgaum is the only railway station for the entire southern part of the Ratnagiri district, and for all the villages in Chandgad which lie in Maharashtra State. Belgaum will not lose its importance if it is included in Maharashtra. It could still continue to be the headquarters of the reconstituted district comprising Marathi parts of Belgaum taluka, Chandgad taluka, western part of Khanapur taluka, etc.

1.208. The memorandum submitted by the Marathi-speaking Congressmen in the Districts of Belgaum and Karwar says that the "Maharashtra Government have placed their case in full in connection with the boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Mysore before the Four-Man Committee and will also be placing the same before this Commission. While we fully endorse their stand we beg to place our case in connection with the Belgaum and Karwar boundaries in particular." These Congressmen contend that a point has been made by the Mysore Government that there are a number of outside people in the town and that such population

should be deducted, but they fail to see that this is due to the marriages of the daughters from Belgaum married outside the town and coming for delivery in Belgaum. There is also a similar number of daughters from areas outside Belgaum coming by way of marriage in Belgaum and going for delivery to their parents outside this town. Hence the question of children born in Belgaum and outside deserves no consideration and the percentage of population remains just the same. Belgaum town and the Marathi-speaking sections of Belgaum district have a predominantly Marathi culture. The Marathi-speaking people of Belgaum city have always remained in the forefront in educational, industrial, economic and political fields. From the point of religion also, the temples like Rama Mandir, Vithal Mandir, Shankar Mandir, Laxmi Mandir, Datta Mandir, Maruti Mandir, Samadevi Mandir, Ganapati Mandir, Kapileshwar Mandir, Shani Mandir and Ambabai Mandir are predominantly of Marathi culture and the priests of these temples are Marathi-speaking.

1.209. All the Sports Associations like Belgaum District Hockey Association, the Union Gymkhana and District Athletic Association are affiliated to Maharashtra Association till now and they are handsomely patronised by Marathi speakers.

1.210. The Printing Presses Association is also affiliated to Maharashtra.

1.211. As regards the ownership of houses and fields in Belgaum city, Marathi-speaking people are in glaring majority. Belgaum's phone and telegraphic relations are mainly and predominantly with Maharashtra. The records of the Belgaum Borough Municipality have been in Marathi since its inception till today. Belgaum is the gateway of the southern portion of the Ratnagiri district. It is also the gateway of Goa through the Amboli Ghats and Ponda Ghats. In a city like Belgaum where the city survey records have been kept in Marathi during the last fifty years or more, they have now been changed to Kannada language. In schools like the St. Paul's High School at Belgaum with English as the medium of instruction, Kannada is made compulsory for non-Kannada students. Revenue officers and civil courts are manned by officials who have no knowledge of Marathi.

1.212. Shri V. S. Patil, Advocate and ex-MLA, says he was born and bred up in the area of Belgaum and has worked as a pleader since 1929. He was a Member of the Municipal Council of Belgaum and of District Local Board, Belgaum and Chairman of the Belgaum District School Board for six years. In 1952 he was elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly from Belgaum-Chandgad constituency. He was representing Belgaum taluka since 1957. He supports the arguments mentioned above by the congressmen of the district. Not even a single Marathi candidate was taken in any gazetted post during these ten years, nor anybody was promoted. Promotions of some high placed officials from the old Mysore State were withheld. Some of them were forced to retire on flimsy grounds. The anti-Marathi spirit has gone deep into the minds of Government officials who are all Kannadas. Even in the Legislature there is no Marathi steno and the speeches made and questions

asked, go without record. The two major municipalities of Belgaum and Nipani have been superseded by the Government of Mysore and they have appointed administrators. The police officials are all Kannada and the statements recorded by them during investigation are in Kannada even though the deponents are purely Marathi. The Marathi Mandal High School is one of the best and most popular high schools at Belgaum but it has no playground. The Government of Bombay had given 7 acres of land adjacent to the high school on temporary basis. This plot has been taken back by the authorities and they have constructed police headquarters on it. The Dakshina Maharashtra Shikshan Mandal wanted to start Arts and Science Colleges at Belgaum. This Mandal was given 17 and odd acres of land from the Belgaum Cantonment by the military authorities. The Chief Minister of Mysore requested the Central Government not to give the land to the Mandal but to give it to the Mysore State for a polytechnic. The polytechnic building already constructed is to be handed over for the use of the Medical College started by the KLE Society, which is not only a Kannada but a communal institution of Lingayats.

> "We cannot rely on the figures of Census of 1961 when all enumerators were Kannada under the influence of Kannada Officers", he said. "The report of the representatives of the Government of Maharashtra on the Maharashtra-Mysore boundary dispute is a well-studied document and has put forth cogent reasons to solve this boundary dispute. I agree with them."

1.213. Shri D. V. Rege, a retired I.C.S. officer, has submitted several memoranda and also interviewed me in support of the Maharashtra case. He says simple majority of over 50 per cent is the basis of democracy. A higher percentage may be relevant to the formation of linguistic States but not to adjustment of boundaries.

1.214. Shri N. I. Chimade, Advocate, Ex-Public Prosecutor and Social Worker of Belgaum, has submitted a memorandum which follows the same lines as the report of the two-man Maharashtrian Commission on the Four-man Committee.

1.215. Shri P. B. Dalvi, Chairman, Municipal School Board, Belgaum, in his memorandum says that in the present body there are three Kannada members and two Muslims and the rest seven are Marathi. The present situation of the schools under the Municipal School Board is as under:—

Municipal Marathi Schools	26
Private Marathi Schools	9
TOTAL	35
Municipal Kannada Schools	12
Private Kannada Schools	3
TOTAL	15

Municipal Urdu Schools		9
Strength of the Schools :—		
	Marathi	15,005
	Kannada	6,105
	Urdu	3,614

371 are Marathi Teachers.
154 are Kannada Teachers.
62 are Urdu Teachers.

1.216. It can be said that the Kannadigas are not even half of the Marathi.

1.217. The Christian Missionaries came to Belgaum in 1850. The first primary school started by the Mission was in 1861 and it was a Marathi School. The school was started by a foreign lady named Watt. This school was named Watson School. The first Kannada School was started in 1907. This is named as Sherman School. To the foreign missionaries both Marathi and Kannada were alien languages. Why is it that the mission started the Marathi School in 1861 and the Kannada School in 1907? The obvious fact is that Belgaum town even then had predominantly Marathi majority and the population of the Kannadigas was very low.

1.218. The Belgaum Tilakwadi Timber Merchants Furniture Makers and Body Builders Association has also submitted a memorandum on similar lines. The main problem we are facing since the formation of the new State is the language.

1.219. The memorandum from Sarvajanik Vachanalaya, Belgaum, says that it is the oldest institution in the town of Belgaum and also in the district of Belgaum. At present there are 1,036 books. 622 in English, 284 in Marathi, 34 in Sanskrit, 31 in Canarese and 65 in Gujarati. Since its inception the institution had 284 Marathi books while Kannada books were 31. That shows that in 1848 the institution enjoyed the patronage of Marathi readers in overwhelming majority. The Managing Committee is composed of 11 elected members—9 Marathi-speaking and 2 Kannada-speaking. Since the inclusion of Belgaum in Mysore State, systematic efforts were being made and measures were being adopted at the government level to hamper the progress of the Marathi-speaking people in their language. It has become well nigh difficult for the Marathi institutions like the present one to carry on its work satisfactorily.

1.220. The Marathi Mandal of Belgaum has also submitted a memorandum on similar lines.

1.221. In a memorandum submitted by the Rajput community it is said that there are 40 Rajput families in Belgaum and about 2 or 3 families in every village of the disputed region. They all speak Hindi at home, but the language of outside communication for reading, writing, and speaking is only Marathi and not Kannada. It repeats the arguments as given above.

1.222. Shri M. S. Shahapurkar and Shri B. V. Haveldar have supported the claim for merger. If an opinion poll is taken, Marathi-speaking people who are in majority will give a clear verdict in favour of Maharashtra.

1.223. The Shorthand and Typewriting Institutes have also submitted a similar memorandum and mentioned their difficulties owing to the language policy of the Government of Mysore. Most of the students for typewriting have to go to Maharashtra—in Kolhapur or Sangli—and appear there as the students are Marathi-speaking.

1.224. Shri C. N. Hunnargikar of Belgaum complains of discriminating treatment given by the Mysore Government to Marathi-speaking people and says that Belgaum is predominantly Maharashtrian but the plight of the Marathi people living there is pitiable and they would be saved if Belgaum is included in Maharashtra.

1.225. The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Belgaum, in its memorandum says about Belgaum town that it is not that the Marathi speaking people were intruders or late-comers to Belgaum, but that the town being the headquarter of a district, which had a Kannada majority and being later also the Divisional Headquarters of a Kannada division, it attracted some Kannada-speaking people to the town. It is thus the Kannadigas who are late-comers to the town. The best evidence of culture is the temples, which denote the religion of the people. The temples will show the mass feeling, and of the 13 temples of the town, ten are managed by the Marathi people and only three by Kannada people.

1.226. The Municipality was established in 1850. The records of the Municipality continue to be in Marathi till this day notwithstanding the wishes of the Mysore Government and the Kannada people. The record of the village officers of the Belgaum town was in Marathi till 1924. In trade and commerce the tradesmen's accounts were always kept in Marathi language. In 1960-61, the number of pupils in Marathi schools were 12,953 and in 1966-67, 18,932 while in Kannada schools the numbers were 4,114 in 1960-61 and 8,021 in 1966-67. Social structure, life, traditions and institutions are all Maharashtrian. Marathi people are more enlightened in this area.

1.227. The important market centres of Belgaum district are Belgaum, Nipani, Nandgad, Gokak, Bailhongal, Athni and Sankeshwar. Of these Belgaum, Nipani and Nandgad are situated in this area, while the rest are in Kannada area of the district. Kannada people read and write Marathi in disputed areas. The official records in Chikodi taluka are kept in English, Marathi and Kannada; in Belgaum in English, Marathi and Kannada; in Khanapur in English, Marathi and Kannada; and in Shahapur in Marathi.

1.228. In 1957 General Elections there was a Muslim candidate for the Belgaum city constituency, but in 1962 elections there was no Muslim candidate and they voted for the Samiti candidate.

Gujaratis and Marwaris also speak Marathi. Christians speak Konkani.

1.229. Belgaum is a commercial place of importance but not a first rate market like Sangli, Kolhapur or Poona. The trade of Belgaum consists of local agricultural produce and manufactured articles, imports and exports. The agricultural produce of Belgaum and surrounding areas is mainly of paddy and rice, ragi, jaggery, potatoes and sweet potatoes. 80 per cent of the jaggery comes from the surrounding Marathi areas. Kannada villages in Belgaum taluka have trade connections with the Belgaum city only to a small extent.

1.230. Rani Channamma cannot be described as the Rani of Jhansi. The Mysore Government are trying to make capital out of her fighting the British. The Municipality donated Rs. 25,000/- for celebrations concerned with Rani Channamma. Attempt is being made to impose a new Kannada culture on the Marathi-speaking people. 1961 Census figures have yet not been published and for reasons already given, the only Census on which the Commission should rely is the Census of 1951. That is also the object of the resolution of 25th October, 1966. The Commission is not bound by the decision of the Delimitation Commission. There will be no hardship to the Kannada people if disputed areas are transferred to Maharashtra.

1.231. There is a flagrant instance of denial of important civil and political rights to Belgaum town merely because of its sympathy with the cause of the Marathi people. In February 1962 in a total membership of 44 of the Municipal Board, 34 were Marathi, 6 Kannada and 4 Muslim people. The term of the Municipality expired in 1962. Fresh elections should have been held then. This was not done. Elections were held in October 1963. There were 16 wards in the town. In four wards nominations were rejected on the ground that the candidate concerned was not an elector in the specified ward for which he stood for election. Elections were thus held in 12 wards only. There were writ petitions to the High Court in respect of the rejection of the nomination papers. The High Court held that the rejections were illegal. This was in 1964. The elections to the Municipality were fixed to be held on 10th October, 1964, but on 14th September the Government issued an ordinance under the Emergency powers postponing the election till the Emergency lasted. The ordinance was later replaced by an Act. On 19th December, the Government appointed an official Administrator. There was one more writ petition in the High Court. This petition was upheld by the High Court, who quashed the government order making the appointment. The Government had the Act amended and the amendment also provided for the validation of the appointment already made. The official Administrator thus continues in office till this day. The people of Belgaum have been denied the important political right by Government of governing their civic affairs since 1962. The only reason for Government action is that the Municipality had several times expressed itself in favour of the Marathi-speaking areas of the Mysore State including the Balgaum town being joined to Maharashtra State. The Marathi

speaking people are suffering hardship on account of official language also. There is a reign of terror for Marathi people.

1.232. In Belgaum town in 1962 the Samiti candidate had 14,445 votes more than his Congress rival. In 1967 the Samiti candidate had only 3,594 votes more than his Congress rival. The reduction in the difference between the votes polled by the two candidates calls for some comment. The reduction is partly due to increase in Kannada population which is floating to a large extent and partly due to faulty electoral rolls. The Congress exploited the communal feelings by setting up a wealthy Jain candidate for the Assembly seat and a fairly rich Muslim candidate for the Lok Sabha seat. All Jains and Muslims speak Marathi though in some cases their first language may be different. In the previous elections they voted for the Samiti candidate.

1.233. Shri H. V. Pataskar, Ex-Governor, Madhya Pradesh,, has also submitted a memorandum in his personal capacity in which he says that he and his colleagues on the Four-Man Commission made a report after exhaustive enquiry on the 25th May, 1962, and that along with that report, they have submitted a map showing the area in dispute and indicating the results of settling the dispute according to the proposals made in the report. He says "I stand by the proposals made in the report and commend them to the Commission for acceptance."

1.234. Shri B. R. Sunthankar, President, Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Belgaum, has submitted a signed representation of various associations. The majority of the signatories have Marathi as their language. They claim social, cultural and political ties with Maharashtra. Records are kept in Marathi. Success in the elections was cited to support its case.

1.235. The first memorandum is from Shri Parit (Washerman) Samaj. It says that the community has traditional links with Maharashtra. There is another from the Dhobi Samaj. The members of Parit (Washermen) community have submitted a representation. The Parit Samaj Sudharana Mandal has submitted a memorandum. The next one is from Shri Nabhik Samaj Sudharana Mandal. Nabhik is the barber community. The next one is from the Fruit Commission Agents, Belgaum. Then there is one from the Watch Repairers and Dealers of Belgaum city. The next one is from the Cycle Repairers and Hirers Association, Belgaum. There is one from the Press Owners' Association, Belgaum. The next one is from Hosiery Manufacturers in Belgaum city. Then there is a representation from the Bharat Vinakar Audyogik Sangh, Shahapur, Belgaum, saying that the volume of trade with Maharashtra is much larger than with Mysore. Sale of saris is more in Maharashtra. Then there is one from the Association of Shri Khemajirao Tukaram Godase Educational Trust. It says that Belgaum city is predominantly Marathi. The Marathi Vidya Prasarak Samaj has submitted one representation. Its object is the spread of education. The Association has intense desire to be merged with Maharashtra. Then there is one from the Charmaker Samaj Sudharana Mandal, Belgaum.

This is the shoe-makers community. There is one from the Kashti Jamat (Labourers) Branch of the Belgaum Maharashtra Samaj Sudharana Mandal. The Panch Mandal, Belgaum, has also submitted a memorandum connected with Maharashtra customs and culture. The Shivaji Ex-Servicemen's Cooperative Society is of the same view. Then there is one from Shri Shivaji Shikshan Nidhi, Shahapur. It says that it gets no financial assistance since Mysore was formed; particularly since the appointment of Administrator to Belgaum Municipality, its grant has been stopped.

1.236. Then there is a representation from Shri Sant Sena Social Uplift Association. The people of Nabhik Samaj read and write in Marathi. Then there is one from Maratha Mandal, Belgaum and also one from Atmodhar Sangha, Shahapur, Belguam. It was started mostly for Marathi community.

1.237. The memorandum from Sarvajanik (Public) Shiv Jayanti Ceremony, Belgaum, on behalf of the Mujawar Galli Belgaum Shivajayanti Ceremony says that Marathi, Muslim, Kannada and Christian people of this region wish for inclusion of Belgaum in Maharashtra. This is signed by Shri Hanmantrao K. Shahapurkar, Secretary. Then there is a representation from the workers of Arun Motor Works, Arun Engineering Works, M/s Bondre Gurjar & Co., Cloth Merchants of Belgaum, residents of Ward No. 4, Shahapur, residents of Ward No. 5 of Shahapur, residents of Ward No. 6 of Shahapur and residents of Belgaum town to the same effect.

1.238. The State of Maharashtra in its statement of the case submitted to the Commission on 31st March, 1967, reiterated the arguments already cited in the different pro-merger memoranda and summed up its case in the following terms. In para 6.51, at page 110, it stated as follows:—

(a) that the Belgaum city is contiguous to the Marathi-speaking tract;

(b) that the Marathi-speaking people are in absolute majority in the Belgaum city;

(c) that social and cultural affinity (qualitatively and quantitatively) is overwhelmingly with Marathi-speaking people of Maharashtra and that the city is Maharashtrian in character;

(d) that the number of primary and secondary schools shows that substantially larger number of children go to Marathi schools than to Kannada schools;

(e) that the economic affiliations are with Maharashtra;

(f) that all the elections to Legislature, Municipality and non-official bodies so far contested have been won by the Marathi-speaking candidates; and

(g) that the wishes of the people have been unequivocally expressed on a number of occasions in favour of inclusion in Maharashtra.

1.239. The State of Mysore in its memorandum dated 31st March 1967, made all the points already stated and emphasised the following points:

(a) The Municipality of Belgaum has been having a Marathi majority. This was due to the fact that the early educated and the more influential persons were usually found among the Marathi-speaking people, but there is nothing wrong about it. Unfortunately, this has brought in its train a short of encouragement to Marathi and discouragement to Kannada.

(b) The records of the Municipality are maintained only in Marathi, although it is a bilingual city. This sort of stepmotherly treatment to Kannada is not befitting a public institution like the Municipality.

(c) This attitude of the Municipality was further responsible for mishandling of the recording of the Census of 1951. It was seriously alleged by the Kannada section that deliberate wrong enumerations were being conducted by the employees of the Municipality.

(d) In the case of any city which lies in a bilingual belt, it is quite possible to link it as easily with one part as with the other. In such cases, it would not be proper to decide the question merely on linguistic composition of the city. The proper consideration would be to see whether a linking of the city with one State or the other, would be beneficial to the people of the city, as also whether it would be more beneficial to the people of the State with whom it has to be linked. Due consideration should be given to the harm likely to be caused to and the loss likely to be entailed by the area from which the city is taken away.

1.240. It is stated that most of the educational institutions, particularly the seven colleges, *viz*,, the Government Polytechnic and the five Primary Teachers Training Institutions, Karnatak Ayurveda Vidya Peetha, all cater to the needs of students of the whole of the Belgaum district and some of them serve the students from all over Karnatak. The colleges in their turn are fed by High Schools from all over the district and they are 65 in number. If Belgaum is transferred to the State of Maharashtra, it causes great dislocation not only to the colleges but also the students of the whole State. Fifty per cent of the students of these colleges are Kannada-speaking and they hail from all over the district of Belgaum. The transfer of Belgaum would also involve the affiliation of the colleges to a University in Maharashtra which further involves the question of medium of instruction. In the Shivaji University of Kolhapur and Poona University which are the nearest in Maharashtra, the medium is Marathi for Arts courses. Although English still continues for Science courses, it is being fast switched on to Marathi.

1.241. In other paragraph it was mentioned that in addition to these educational institutions there are various other institutions whose jurisdiction extends over the whole of the district of Belgaum. Some of them may be Government institutions; but there are many

others which are private institutions of a democratic nature built by the public in general. To mention a few of them, the District Central Co-operative Bank, the District Industrial Co-operative Bank, the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, the District Co-operative Manure Production and Supplies Society, the Karnatak Pradesh Ayurvedic Mandali, the Karnatak Nekar Sahakari Utpadana Society, Bharatiya Educational and Social Service League, the Karnatak Ayurveda Vidya Peeth, the Karnatak Hosiery Sahakari Utpadak Sangh, etc., can be cited. Most of these institutions are operating all over the district and some are as old as 40 to 50 years. They have grown and developed into an organic body and they cannot be easily cut off from their moorings all over the district. The transfer of Belagum to Maharashtra would be a death-knell to these institutions.

1.242. So far as the Government buildings are concerned, they are numerous since Belgaum houses many District and Divisional Offices and quarters, etc. The cost of these buildings is enormous running into several crores of rupees. Moreover, if the Belgaum city is transferred, there is no other place in the other talukas of the district good enough to become a District Headquarter. In the whole of the district, no other taluka place is on the Railway line—not to speak of other conveniences.

1.243. Belgaum is the focal centre for the whole of the district. It is also centrally situated so far as the four districts of the Bombay-Karnatak are concerned, of which it has been Divisional Headquarters. Belgaum is linked by road with almost all parts of the district and also with the entire Karnatak area. The only direct link from Belgaum to Maharashtra is the one that passes through the Amboli Ghat and reaches up to Vengurla on the Arabian Sea coast. It is about 79 miles. Passenger buses ply between Belgaum and various places both within and without the district of Belgaum. Some of them which go to places like Kolhapur in Maharashtra, have to run to a considerable distance in the Mysore State. 7,326 kilometres of the road is within Mysore State and 260 kilometres in Maharashtra.

1.244. It was also mentioned that an industrial estate has been set up recently in the outskirts of the Belgaum city. A number of small industries are coming up there with the electric power supplied from the Sherawati Project of the Mysore State. Two major industries are also to be started shortly at Belgaum: (i) the Aluminium Plant and (ii) a Co-operative Textile Mill. Deposits of bauxite (necessary for the aluminium industry) have been found at a short distance to the west of Belgaum.

1.245. The persons who came for interview before the Commission at Belgaum during its sittings on 23rd. 24th, 25th and 26th March, 1967, at Poona on 5th to 9th April, 1967 and at Bangalore on 19th to 21st April, 1967, and expressed their opinion whether for merger of the city of Belgaum in Maharashtra State or for the maintenance of *status quo* have been summarised in Annexure I, Volume II.

1.246. The most contentious area in the whole controversy between the two States is the town of Belgaum. The two Maharashtrian members in the Four-Man Boundary Commission said that "the

dispute is not so much about the 1,058 villages or the 13 smaller townships as about the three cities of Belgaum, Karwar and Nipani, and of these three, the most important is the city of Belgaum". So, battle royal rages apparently between the two contesting parties about this city.

1.247. The Government of Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti who is the crusader in getting the city transferred to the State of Maharashtra and practically all those speaking the Marathi language have produced all sorts of arguments in support of merger of this city in the unilingual State of Maharashtra. On the other hand, the Canarese people and most of the other non-Marathi language groups inhabiting the city, with a few exceptions, wish to maintain the *status quo*. I have been asked by the Samiti to carefully read its memorandum. I have read it several times before reaching my decision.

1.248. The Samiti had submitted a memorandum on behalf of itself and all the Marathi-speaking people of the area to the States Reorganisation Commission requesting it to include the city of Belgaum and the Marathi-speaking villages of Belgaum district in the State of Maharashtra, but its demand was rejected and it had no success before the S. R. Commission. The claim having been rejected the Samiti redoubled its efforts for the cause and has in its memorandum presented to this Commission bitterly but unjustly criticised the S.R.C. Report. The whole burden of its song in its memorandum is the severe criticism of every line or sentence written in the S.R.C. Report. All that can be said is that a few errors of facts had crept in the Report but they do not affect the conclusion reached and the ground on which that conclusion was based.

1.249. I have very carefully considered the case of this controversial city and have given the fullest consideration to the memorandum of the Samiti and to all the arguments contained in the statement of the case presented by the State of Maharashtra on 31st March, 1967. All the important points for merger in Maharashtra have been detailed in the earlier part of this chapter. I have also considered the various arguments presented before me not only in the different memoranda presented but made by those persons, some of them very eminent, who interviewed me.

1.250. On the appreciation of the whole material and assessing it objectively, I have reached the conclusion that I cannot recommend the inclusion of the city of Belgaum as it stands today, including the area of Shahapur and of Cantonment, for merger in the State of Maharashtra.

1.251. Briefly stated, my reasons for the decision I have reached are the following.

1.252. As stated in the earlier chapter of Part I of the Report, I have to decide the dispute referred to me primarily on linguistic basis. The fundamental basis of reorganisation of States is linguistic homogeneity. I have held that the linguistic group claiming transfer to a unilingual State of any area or city should have preponderance in the

population of the area or city and that preponderance should be substantial and not of a slight nature or merely of fluctuating character. I have also held that the percentage of population over and above 50 per cent, and ordinarily 60 per cent, should be regarded as stable and if the population of the language group is below this percentage no change in the *status quo* should be made. Wherever I have recommended change, it would be seen that the percentage is much higher than 60 per cent, in some cases over 80 per cent. The State of Maharashtra also gave me percentage of population in villages claimed by them. It comes to over 60 per cent. In applying the above principle to the case of the city of Belgaum, it does not stand the test above stated. The Marathi-speakers in Belgaum city, Shahapur and Cantonment, which at present form the urban area, constitute 46 per cent of the population. In order to give the city lungs and room for expansion, I have included five villages which are Marathi majority villages near about the city area but even with this addition, the linguistic percentage does not go above 47. Therefore, on the basis of linguistic gravity Belgaum city along with Shahapur and Cantonment, cannot be transferred to the State of Maharashtra. Other considerations urged in the different memoranda are not relevant to the case since the city does not satisfy the linguistic gravity test. The S.R.C. Report refused to include the city in the State of Maharashtra in 1956, even though the Marathi-speakers in the city were over 51.1 per cent. It regarded this majority as slight. I concur in this decision.

1.253. The total population of urban area with the five villages kept in the city, namely, Belgaum (rural), Madhavpur, Anagol, Wadgaon and Dhamne (South Belgaum) works out to 1,74,425 out of which speakers of Marathi language are 83,672 and speakers of Kannada language 46,793 and speakers of other languages constitute the rest of which about 25,000 are Muslims. For the benefit of 83,672 Marathi-speakers I do not find it just and equitable to throw over 90,000 non-Marathi-speakers in a unilingual State of Maharashtra. 46 per cent or 47 per cent speakers of one language group cannot carry with it 54 per cent of the other language groups. The industrial area also has to be kept in the city. The area is constituted of the two villages which are Majagaon and Peeranwadi which includes Jaitanmal, an uninhabited village. The total population of the area is 5,478 out of which 2,166 are Kannada and 2,835 are Marathi. This does not very much alter the linguistic complexion of the area above stated. The result is that Belgaum urban area plus the five villages round about it and the industrial area remain in the State of Mysore. The total population of the whole of this group is 1,79,903 out of which 48,959 are Kannada and 86,507 odd Marathi. The rest constitutes about 44,437. It is no doubt true that the Marathi-speakers constitute the largest single language group in the city but that by itself does not on the principles already enunciated furnish a ground for alteration of the *status quo*.

1.254. Geographically also Belgaum town is situated on the border of the Marathi predominant compact area to the west of it and to the south-west of it. In its north, east and south is the Kannada predominant area. A look at the map annexed to the Language Handbook

of 1951 Census gives a vivid picture of the situation. The plan annexed by the Bombay Government with its case presented in 1957 also gives the same geographical situation as given in the Language Handbook of 1955. The Samiti in its memorandum placed the same plan before the Commission. The plan annexed to the Language Handbook of 1961 has somewhat changed the picture by painting Kudechi, which has below 50 per cent Marathi population, in a different colour than the Kannada colour. It has also included Kanabargi which has a little over 50 per cent Marathi people in the colour in which Marathi majority area has been painted. In another part of the report I have disallowed the claim to Kudechi and Kanabargi made for the first time before me by the State of Maharashtra and the Samiti. The Bombay Government in its case presented in 1957 never claimed these villages. They claimed only 84 villages and not 86 and these two villages had a very clear Kannada complexion at that time. Slight change does not affect the situation and these villages have to be painted red and included in the Kannada zone and in that case except the nine pocket villages, the whole of the area to the north, east and south is Kannada speaking and with Belgaum city, it becomes a compact area and the city cannot be made a part of the villages to the west which do not even make half of the taluka of Belgaum.

1.255. It may be mentioned that Kudechi had 73.4 per cent Kannada majority in the 1951 Census. Marathi there was only 26.2 per cent. In the Census of 1961 both language groups have equal percentage of 49.2. This change even if correct does not justify the conclusion that the complexion of Kudechi is Maharashtrian. Similarly, in Kanabargi in 1951 Census Marathi speakers had been 31.1 per cent and Kannada speakers 66.3 per cent. In 1961 Census Marathi speakers have become 50.4 per cent and Kannada 47.9 per cent. Even this slight bare majority would not lead to the conclusion that these villages have ceased to have Kannada complexion, particularly when to the north of Kanabargi is a very strong Kannada village Sonahatti with about 99 per cent Kannada speakers and Kakati also where the Marathi is only 40 per cent and Kannada 52.8 per cent while there are other language groups in that village. Then there is Kabalapur which has a very strong Kannada population.

1.256. There being no linguistic gravity to include the city of Belgaum in the State of Maharashtra, I am in one with the S.R.C. Report that the case of the city should be decided on administrative grounds. When the majority of the talukas of Belgaum are still retained in the district of Belgaum, and in spite of my recommendations when some parts of Belgaum, Khanapur, Chikodi and Hukeri go out of it, the headquarters of the district does not require any change. The town has developed in the last ten years into a cosmopolitan city with a large number of institutions of all kinds with an industrial area. It is unnecessary to mention in detail all that has been contained in the memorandum of the State of Mysore and other anti-merger memoranda already cited.

1.257. The city of Belgaum is inhabited by over 80,000 Marathi speakers. Amongst them are very eminent men including retired high officials, academicians, civil servants and judges. As a matter

of fact most of the intelligentsia of the town is Maharashtrian and they wield considerable influence in the life of the city. Belgaum has produced great Maharashtrian leaders in all spheres of life. It is but natural that Maharashtrian public opinion fully supports the case of the State of Maharashtra on the language issue. Most of these gentlemen who were interviewed by me and were Marathi speaking, even the most eminent ones, had emotional urges for their language. The Kannadigas on the other hand, including majority of Muslims, Harijans and other groups, expressed the opinion for *status quo* with few exceptions here and there, which were caused by Marathi pressures and influence. The fact of the matter is that public opinion is sharply divided and in such circumstances, this cannot be taken as a deciding factor in settling the dispute about this city. The result of elections also is not a safe guide. The Bar Association passed no resolution, 22 Marathi members supported the merger while an equivalent 24 others wanted *status quo*.

1.258. The superseded Municipality was comprised mostly of Maharashtrian members. They on different occasions passed resolutions for merger. They kept the proceedings in Marathi language despite the Government circulars that Belgaum was a bilingual city.

1.259. During the Commission's enquiry the supporters of the Maharashtra Government swore by the 1951 Census and asked me to ignore the 1961 Census. The argument was that the Government of Bombay put forward its case in the year 1957 and that case should be decided as and when it was made, *i.e.*, 1957, and on the material then existing and all subsequent events including the 1961 Census were to be ignored. The object of insisting on 1951 Census was that they wanted the fate of the city of Belgaum to be decided on the language figures of 1951 which gives a bare majority to the Speakers of the Marathi language in the town and by further insisting on the Pataskar Formula that a bare majority is sufficient for transferring an area from one State to another unilingual State, they felt that the case for the transfer of the city of Belgaum became a strong one and this was enough to reverse the decisions arrived at by the S. R. Commission. My own finding is that even if I had to go by the 1951 Census, I would not transfer the city of Belgaum to Maharashtra merely on the bare majority theory. I have already held that no such transfer should be made where the majority is slight and fluctuating. In the 1951 Census the majority of the Marathi speakers was bare. Now it has become 46 per cent in the 1961 Census which I cannot ignore. The case of relative majority does not appeal to me at all.

1.260. The argument that the Marathi culture dominates the city, that Marathi dramas, films, music etc., are popular there, does not furnish any satisfactory guide to solve this issue. With over 80,000 Marathi population in the town and Marathi people forming the intelligentsia and the literate majority of the town, these things are but natural and there is nothing unusual about these things. The number of primary schools and of temples furnish no guide.

1.261. The Karnatak Liberal Education Society had done great educational work in the city. It has been running a number of

colleges and schools and also a medical college. The industrial development that has taken place during the last ten years and the supply of electricity from the Sherawati Electric Works in Mysore and the Waterworks supply have changed the life of the city considerably.

1.262. Great reliance has been placed by the Samiti and the State of Maharashtra on the trade relations of the city with the villages in the Marathi speaking areas and the economic life of the city has been stated to be more with the Maharashtra area than with the Kannada area. This circumstance also is not of great assistance in solving the problem. A city like Belgaum with good climate and all possible amenities and conveniences is bound to develop as a trade centre and villages in the rural areas, whether Marathi-speaking or Kannada-speaking or Urdu-speaking, would bring its produce to the town where it finds that it can fetch good price, particularly when the roads and the bus services make it easy to travel to Belgaum from all about areas in the district of Belgaum. In my view the common man is not concerned or bothered by the language phobia. It is only the political workers, and particularly the Samiti workers whose sole aim is to carry certain areas to Maharashtra State and which came into existence only for this purpose and no other, and have been carrying on agitation for the inclusion of the Belgaum city in Maharashtra and have been creating a great deal of disturbance and trouble by appealing to the emotional urges of ignorant people who are interested in this issue. So long as bodies like this, whose sole wish is to propagate linguistic emotions carry on their activities these will prove in the ultimate a great danger to the unity of the country. They all forget the good old principle of co-existence and tolerance. After all Marathi majorities will not vanish from the State of Mysore nor will Kannada minorities become extinct in Maharashtra. Be that as it may, if the majorities are substantial then on the principle of linguistic homogeneity if the areas are contiguous to a unilingual State, their transfer may well be justified.

1.263. A large number of complaints and grievances of Maharashtrians in the State of Mysore, and particularly in these border areas and the city of Belgaum were read to me by Shri Sen from the memorandum presented by the Samiti. An abbreviated list of these have also been given in the appendix to the memorandum submitted by the State of Maharashtra. I have applied my mind to these complaints and it seems to me that most of these are exaggerated and without much substance. A few people, however, were interviewed by me who mentioned some of their individual grievances which the circular making the regional language applicable in various spheres of administration has caused to them. Shri Nambiar very successfully met the arguments of Shri Sen and quoted chapter and verse proving that those grievances were not justified. I have, however, a feeling that despite the report furnished by the State of Mysore to the Linguistic Minorities Commissioner, there has been little implementation of the decisions of the Government of Mysore in relieving different hardships of the Marathi speaking people in these border areas. Most probably the

want of implementation is due to the fact that the officers charged with this work are, if not all, most of them, Canarese speakers and do not understand the urges and the complaints of the Marathi speakers in the villages of Belgaum. In my view most of these complaints will disappear if the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities saw to the implementation of the constitutional guarantees given to minorities in the bilingual areas of the border. The guarantees given to the minority language groups in bilingual areas fully implemented, most of these complaints will disappear and the emotional urges which are fanned by politicians or by bodies which have no other work but to spread the language phobia may abate. These bodies if they do the work of education and in the social sphere their work will be useful. A large number of persons appearing before me for anti-merger expressed their abhorrence of the activities of the Shiv Sena of Bombay. I am not concerned with that body, but I do feel that any agitation on the ground that a unilingual State only exists for the speakers of that particular language, will cut at the root of the unity of India and may eventually lead to the dismemberment of the Union.

1.264. The result is that I find no cogent reason for handing over the city of Belgaum to the Maharashtra State simply to satisfy the emotional urges of a certain language group. Belgaum city has trade relations with Marathi areas as well as Kannada areas. It has developed as a trade centre for all the surrounding areas and will continue as such, whether it is in the State of Mysore or Maharashtra.

1.265. Some people wish to make Belgaum the capital of a new district comprising Chandgad taluka, parts of Belgaum, parts of Khanapur, parts of Chikodi etc., if Belgaum was added to Maharashtra. I do not see any logic in this theory, particularly when it already has the status of a capital town for large areas of admittedly Kannada complexion in the district.

1.266. The Government of Mysore and the various memoranda which were for anti-merger drew my attention very particularly and Shri Nambiar also mentioned them in chronological order, that the Congress since 1929 onwards have been including Belgaum in Karnatak for purposes of their own organisation, that in the 1929 Literary Conference held in Belgaum a great Maharashtrian leader, Shri N. C. Kelkar, definitely announced that Belgaum is a part of Karnatak and will remain in Karnatak etc. I do not think any statements made by great leaders of the Congress before 1956 when the States Reorganisation Commission schemes was taken up by the Government of the Union would clinch the issue one way or the other. Much water has flown under the bridges since then and the linguistic urges are now greater than they were when these speeches were made.

1.267. As regards the points made by the State of Bombay in its statement of the case, my decision is that it is not accurate to say that Belgaum city is contiguous to the Marathi-speaking tract. It is certainly on one side contiguous to it but on the other three sides it is contiguous to the Kannada areas as well. Their contention that

Marathi-speaking people are in absolute majority in the Belgaum city stands negatived by the Census figures. The social and cultural affinities with the Marathi-speaking people of Maharashtra and the Maharashtrian character of the city is not a circumstance which affects my decision, for the simple reason that with a big Marathi population in the city, the social and cultural affinities of Marathi-speaking people are bound to be with the Marathi people of Maharashtra. Similarly, the number of primary and secondary schools does not show that this circumstance has any relevance to the points that I have to decide. The economic affiliations are not particularly with Maharashtra. They are with all areas in the district of Belgaum and elsewhere. I have already stated that the elections to the Legislature and Municipality and non-official bodies are not a very safe guide for holding that the public opinion is strongly in favour of the merger of the city of Belgaum in Maharashtra.

1.268. As regards the wishes of the people, I have already said that they are sharply divided on this point and really a very few of them, if any, could give me an objective view of the matter.

1.269. The result, therefore, is that I cannot recommend the inclusion of the city of Belgaum and the five villages round about it and the two villages of the industrial estate in the State of Maharashtra.

CHAPTER I(E)

BELGAUM TALUKA (RURAL)

The States Reorganisation Commission had declined to include the taluka of Belgaum in the State of Maharashtra on the ground that the Marathi majority in the taluka was slight, being 51·4 per cent only and the taluka had no particularly marked economic affiliations with the Marathi-speaking districts of Bombay. It was said that when as many as 9 out of 11 talukas go to Karnatak, then on administrative grounds the Belgaum town along with the taluka of Belgaum should also go to Karnatak.

1.271. The Bombay Government in their representation made in 1957 claimed 84 villages in the taluka of Belgaum. The total population of these villages, according to the 1951 Census, was said to be 2,20,389, with 61 per cent Marathi-speaking. These 84 villages included the town of Belgaum, the Cantonment and the Shahapur Municipal area.

1.272. This claim was resisted by the Mysore Government and it was contended that there was no reason whatsoever to depart from the recommendation of the S. R. Commission, that historically Belgaum district has always been part of Karnatak region, and that in the district Marathi population is only 26·6 per cent. No district as a whole, predominantly Kannada-speaking, can be merged in Maharashtra.

1.273. The two Maharashtrian members on the Four-Man Boundary Committee in their report mentioned that the States Reorganisation Commission was under a misconception when it allotted the taluka of Belgaum to Karnatak. It said that the total population of the taluka was 2,80,963, Marathi-speaking being 49·8 per cent. That being so, the taluka should not have been included in Karnatak.

1.274. The Mysore representatives on the Four-Man Boundary Committee said that as in the Belgaum taluka there was no absolute majority or preponderance of the Marathi-speaking people, this taluka should not be taken away from Karnatak and transferred to Maharashtra. They added that according to the map appended to the case of Maharashtra Government, not only the city of Belgaum is included in the Marathi-speaking area but nine villages to the east of Belgaum are also included to bring the claim to 84. It was contended that immediately to the east of Belgaum city, according to 1951 Census and according to the Language Handbook prepared in 1955, lies the area of pure Kannada-speaking villages like Kanabargi, Kudechi, Alarwad and Shindolli and that the nine villages are not contiguous to the city of Belgaum or any other part of Belgaum taluka shown as Marathi-speaking. They form

a pocket in Kannada area and according to the Government of Bombay's own formula no claim can be made in respect of these nine villages.

1.275. A reference was made to the resolution of the Indian National Congress in 1920 regarding formation of linguistic provinces. The Karnatak province was formed including the whole of the Belgaum district without any demur from anyone, and in 1924, the session of the Indian National Congress invited by the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee was held in Belgaum as one held in Karnatak area.

1.276. The memoranda received by the Commission for or against merger of the 84 villages have been included in Annexure I in Part I, Volume II, of this Report. All those who wanted the town transferred to Maharashtra also supported the claim of the State of Maharashtra to these 84 villages and those who gave opinion for *status quo* supported the stand of the Government of Mysore.

1.277. A few memoranda which exclusively dealt with the case of the villages or the persons who gave evidence supporting the claim of Maharashtra about these villages are mentioned in a later part of this chapter.

1.278. The State of Maharashtra in its statement submitted to the Commission on 31st March, 1967, laid claim instead of 84 villages as claimed in the original memorandum of the Government of Bombay, to 86 villages out of 153 total villages of the taluka. The two more villages added were Kudechi and Kanabargi, clearly situated in a Kannada zone. The object of this additional claim to two villages was to support the claim to nine Marathi majority villages which formed a pocket in the predominant Kannada area. In Appendix IV the language composition of these villages was given. It was stated in the memorandum that the expression of the will of the people was in favour of merger of these areas with Maharashtra and that in all the elections held after 1956, candidates favouring transfer to Maharashtra had been returned with a thumping majority, routing those who were in favour in the continuance of *status quo* and that the Panchayats of most of the concerned villages as also the Taluka Development Board had time and again passed resolutions expressing their desire that these villages should be transferred to Maharashtra.

1.279. Para. 6.53 was in the terms:

> "The population of the nine villages east of Belgaum, *viz.*, Nilgi, Kalakhamb, Mutage, Sambre, Basarikatti, Khangaon Kh., Chandgad, Ashte and Muchandi, claimed by this Government consists of 9,616 Marathi-speaking people and 4,054 Kannada-speaking people. The Village Panchayats of Kannada villages Kudchi and Kanabargi which geographically intervene between the nine Marathi villages mentioned above and the Belgaum city have passed resolutions requesting for their merger with the

Maharashtra State. As a result the geographical contiguity of these nine villages, with the Belgaum city stands established. The effect will be that a large number of people will be spared the inconvenience of being a linguistic minority."

1.280. The State of Mysore stuck to its old stand that the taluka as a whole does not give a clear majority to Marathi speakers, that in the rural area of the taluka the percentage of Marathi-speaking comes to 46.5 while that of the Kannada-speaking comes to 47.2. The representation made by the Bombay Government in the map annexed to their memorandum was said to be incorrect and it was contended that immediately to the east of Belgaum city lies the area of pure Kannada-speaking villages like Kanabargi, Kudechi and Shindolli and that the percentage of Kannada-speaking population of these villages is 66.3, 72.4 and 95 respectively. The nine Marathi villages which lie to the east of these villages are not contiguous to Belgaum city or to any other Marathi-speaking area and, therefore, form an island by themselves. This pocket cannot be claimed even according to the formula relied upon by the Government of Maharashtra. To the north of Belgaum lies the Kannada area of Yemanapur and Kakati while to the south lie the Kannada villages of Halage, Bestawad and Alarwad, and although the Kannada and Marathi speaking population of Halage is nearly equal with a slight preponderance for Marathi, it is for all practical purposes a Kannada village as it is hemmed in on all sides by other Kannada villages.

1.281. The claim of the State of Maharashtra was supported in a number of memoranda submitted to the Commission. In some of these it was said that out of 84 villages in the Belgaum taluka, about 54 are contiguous villages on the northern, western, southern and eastern sides, are Marathi-speaking and that the percentage of Marathi-speaking population in all the 84 villages is 61. Out of the 64 Panchayats, 43 Village Panchayats are Marathi. This is uncontestable evidence that Belgaum town and the western parts of the Belgaum taluka are an integral part of the Marathi-speaking area.

1.282. A suggestion was made that 68 villages be transferred from the Balgaum taluka to Chandgad Mahal to convert it into a taluka, that 14 villages be transferred from Belgaum taluka to Khanapur taluka, that four villages be transferred from Belgaum taluka to Sampgaon taluka and that 94 villages of Sangli, Kurundwad Jr. and Sr. be transferred to Belgaum taluka. The population of Belgaum taluka by these transfers will become 2,19,821 of which Marathi-speaking will be 1,20,755, 55 per cent.

1.283. Shri N. I. Chimade, ex-Public Prosecutor of Belgaum, gave a list of 54 predominantly Marathi-speaking villages. He did not mention how apart from these 54 villages, the rest of the villages were claimed by the State of Mharashtra.

1.284. The Gram Panchayat, Vadagaon, of which 13 members were Marathi-speaking, passed a resolution for merger in Maharashtra.

1.285. The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Belgaum's memorandum has already been considered in the previous chapter and as stated therein, it very strongly not only supported the claim of the State of Maharashtra to 86 villages but wanted two additional villages to be transferred to Maharashtra to make the claim instead of 86 to 88. It was admitted that these four villages, namely, Kudechi, Kanabargi, Yemanapur and Kakati, were Kannada majority villages having 73.4 per cent, 66.3 per cent, 65.8 per cent and 50.2 per cent Kannada majority, but that the Marathi population of Kudechi, Kanabargi and Kakati have expressed their opinion through their Gram Panchayats in favour of merger with Maharashtra. Village No. 41, Sambre, is admittedly in Marathi block. It has an aerodrome. It has thus an important connection with Belgaum town and Cantonment. In view of these connections, Sambre cannot be separated from Belgaum town merely because of the intervening villages of Kanabargi and Kudechi. For all these reasons, Village No. 8 should not be held as breaking the continuity of the Marathi tract.

1.286. Shri H. V. Pataskar, Ex-Governor, Madhya Pradesh, in his memorandum very strongly supported the claim of the Government of Maharashtra. He said: "I stand by the proposals made in the report and commend them to the Commission for acceptance."

1.287. The Marathi-speaking Congress Jana Parishad, Belgaum, submitted a supplementary statement giving poll figures for Bagewadi constituency of Belgaum taluka, Balekundri poll figures and the Uchagaon constituency poll figures. It was urged that these poll figures should be taken into consideration in arriving at the Commission's conclusions.

1.288. As already stated in the previous chapter, Shri Arvind Joshi in his pamphlet supported the claim of the State of Mysore and said that since the western part of the taluka, wherein there are a number of Marathi-speaking people, is the source of two great rivers of Mysore, it cannot afford to think of parting with this area and the whole taluka must remain in Karnatak.

1.289. In another memorandum supporting the State of Mysore's case, it was said that in the number of villages claimed, there are two dozen villages which are not contiguous to Maharashtra and some have Kannada majority and that the taluka as a whole not having a Marathi majority, should not be transferred to the State of Maharashtra.

1.290. Shri Y. H. Kulul submitted a memorandum suggesting the formation of a Karnatak State with Belgaum city as its capital, consisting of the eight districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar, Karwar, Gulbarga, Bidar, Bellary, Sholapur and the Kannada areas now in Maharashtra State, which would "definitely give us at least some justice at your just hand."

1.291. The Mysore Pradesh Congress Committee, Bangalore, said that the claim of the State of Maharashtra was untenable. The Malnad areas of Belgaum and Khanapur are but a continuation of

the Malnad areas of the Haliyal, Supa, Yellapur, Mundgod, Sirsi and Siddapur talukas of Karwar district. Economic affiliation of the entire Malnad area is not to be ignored. Historically, Belgaum was under the Kannada kingdom. It is also the centre of Karnatak social education.

1.292. Shri N. V. Vijaya Kumar of Bangalore on behalf of the Kannada Tarunara Sangha submitted a memorandum in which he said that according to the 1951 Census, immediately to the east of Belgaum city lie the areas of pure Kannada-speaking villages like Kanabargi, Kudechi, Alarwad and Shindolli. The percentage of Kannada-speaking in these villages is 66.3, 73.4, 98.1 and 95. To the east of these villages lie the nine villages claimed by the Government of Maharashtra. These villages form a pocket and are not contiguous to the area claimed by Maharashtra.

1.293. In the previous chapter, I have recommended that the claim of the State of Maharashtra to Belgaum municipal area and Cantonment along with the five neighbouring villages, *viz.*, Belgaum (rural), Madhavpur, Anagol, Vadgaon and Dhamne-S. Belgaum, and to the industrial area comprising of two villages, Majagaon and Peeranwadi which includes the uninhabited village Jaitanmal, cannot be allowed. The result is that the demand for transfer of 86 villages is thus reduced to 76.

1.294. I have also held that the demand regarding two villages of Kudechi and Kanabargi which separate the town and the nine Marathi majority villages, can also not be conceded. These villages in 1951 Census were predominantly Kannada villages and the slight change in the percentage of language groups in the 1961 Census is not such which according to the method of approach stated by me in Part I of this Report can persuade me to recommend transfer of these villages to the State of Maharashtra. Moreover, the town having been settled in the State of Mysore, these villages remain with the town in the State of Mysore. In the result the following nine villages which are a pocket in a predominantly Kannada area cannot be transferred to the State of Maharashtra:

Nilgi,	Basarikiatti,
Kalakhamb,	Khangaon Kh.,
Mutage,	Chandgad,
Sambre,	Ashte,
Muchandi.	

1.295. Thus, the claim for transfer of 86 villages narrows down to 65, all of which the State of Maharashtra can justly claim as predominantly Marathi-speaking areas.

1.296. However, the villages of Halage and Marnhol are pockets in Kannada area and the village of Bhandiholi, a deserted village, is also in Kannada belt. Thus, these three villages cannot be recommended for transfer to Maharashtra. However, two villages, namely, Santibastawad and Kutalwadi, which are Kannada villages but are

pockets in a predominantly Marathi area are recommended for transfer to Maharashtra. I, therefore, recommend that 62 villages mentioned in the statement (1) annexed to this chapter be transferred to the State of Maharashtra on the principle of linguistic homogeneity. The percentage of Marathi-speaking in these 62 villages works out to about 80.6 and Kannada about 16.2.

1.297. The population affected is 75,303; out of which 60,699 is Marathi-speaking and the rest is Kannada and others. This would cause minimum inconvenience to minority groups.

1.298. The area of these villages is contiguous to Chandgad taluka of Kolhapur district. The Belgaum villages recommended for transfer along with the Khanapur villages recommended for merger in Maharashtra form a compact Marathi-speaking zone with a large Marathi percentage and this zone is contiguous to Chandgad taluka included by the S. R. Commission in the State of Maharashtra. The linguistic gravity of this taluka is now higher than it was in 1955.

1.299. The Samiti put forward a claim to 88 villages—two more than claimed by the State of Maharashtra, *viz.*, Kakti and Yamanapur. These are Kannada villages and according to my method of approach cannot be recommended for merger in Maharashtra. This claim was made on the assumption that the town of Belgaum with nine pocket villages will be given to the State of Maharashtra. I may add that the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti has no *locus standi* to make a claim like this. It is only the privilege of one State to make the claim on another State for a boundary settlement. The Samiti's demand is thus inadmissible.

1.300. During my enquiry a number of persons and private bodies wanted to make claims to certain areas for inclusion in Maharashtra or for inclusion in Mysore. I disallowed such claims because such claims on the part of private individuals or associations are inadmissible.

1.301. Regarding Kudechi and Kanabargi villages, it was said that the Village Panchayats had resolved that these villages be merged in Maharashtra. It was the Marathi speakers who passed such resolutions. I do not attach any importance to such Panchayat resolutions. By resolutions of Panchayats, areas cannot be transferred from one State to another, particularly when the linguistic gravity does not permit it. If by Panchayat resolutions areas were to be transferred, the whole political map of India will have to be redrawn. Such a resolution can always be obtained under pressure, coercion or otherwise. Kudechi is a village which is quite close to the town of Belgaum and the Commission was sitting there for a number of days but no Kannada-speaking people in any number came to the Commission suggesting that they were not happy in the State of Mysore.

1.302. At the close of the arguments the State of Maharashtra put in a claim for including 16 more villages for merger in Maharashtra. This was done because of the changes in language percentages in the Census of 1961. This claim has also been made on the assumption

that the Belgaum town and the nine villages which form a pocket in Mysore will be recommended for merger in Maharashtra. Three out of the 16 villages now claimed are uninhabited and are situated in predominantly Kannada area to the east. The rest are also in the eastern Kannada belt. Eight of them have good Kannada majority. In the other 5 excepting two the percentage of Marathi speakers is slight. In the two villages there is good percentage of Marathi speakers, but they are pockets in the Kannada belt. So, even if this claim was to be admitted, it has no substance.

1.303. The villages which remain in the State of Mysore are listed in the statement (2) appended. A map indicating the demarcation is also annexed.

1.304. The water works of the town of Belgaum situated in the village of Rakaskop is continguous to Marathi majority villages proposed to be transferred to the State of Maharashtra. This has to be safeguarded. The water works area should be demarcated and left in the State of Mysore. A revenue officer may be asked to demarcate a corridor out of the area of Marathi majority villages and the corridor be not transferred to Maharashtra. Certain rivers that flow from the area proposed to be transferred out of Mysore State should not be interfered with and they should be allowed to flow as heretofore. A good deal of development work has been undertaken by the Government of Mysore in the area recommended to be merged in Maharashtra. The Government of India should see that this development work is not in any way affected. The two Governments should arrange to carry on the work to the best advantage of both.

STATEMENT (1)

List of sixty-two villages recommended for transfer to the State of Maharashtra.

S. No.	Name of the village	Population (absolute)			Percentages	
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kangrali Bk.	2,041	160	1,881	7·8	92·2
2.	Kangrali Kh.	1,660	135	1,525	8·1	91·9
3.	Goudwad	951	104	846	10·9	89·0
4.	Honage	2,820	616	1,884	21·8	66·8
5.	Bharmyanhatti		(Un-inhabited)			
6.	Kednur	1,988	1,063	913	53·5	45·9
7.	Bamberge	1,060	330	730	31·1	68·9
8.	Handignur	961	13	948	1·4	98·6
9.	Mahalenhatti	263	15	248	5·7	94·3
10.	Chalvenhatti	560	2	556	0·3	99·3
11.	Bodkenhatti	477	144	333	30·2	69·8
12.	Kattanbhavi	570	136	434	23·9	76·1
13.	Kodoli	4,472	1,253	3,028	28·0	67·7
14.	Uchagaon	3,739	343	3,142	9·2	84·0
15.	Gojage	911	107	804	11·7	88·3
16.	Bekkinkere	1,405	6	1,399	0·4	99·6
17.	Ambewadi	2,042	163	1,879	8·0	92·0
18.	Agasge	1,245	551	694	44·3	55·7
19.	Mannur	1,369	303	1,065	22·1	77·8
20.	Turmuri	1,183	92	1,091	7·8	92·2
21.	Bachi	366	69	297	18·9	81·1
22.	Sulage (Uchagaon)	1,709	210	1,496	12·3	87·5
23.	Hindalga	4,427	1,483	2,243	33·5	50·7
24.	Kallehol	1,159	11	1,147	0·9	99·0
25.	Kudremani	1,622	38	1,581	2·3	97·5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Atiwad . . .	678	16	662	2·4	97·6
27.	Alatge . . .	968	133	835	13·7	86·3
28.	Benkanhalli . . .	1,503	153	1,350	10·2	89·8
29.	Savagaon . . .	989	93	875	9·4	88·5
30.	Boknur . . .	505	25	460	4·9	91·1
31.	Mandoli . . .	1,226	124	1,101	10·1	89·8
32.	Belgundi . . .	1,704	112	1,547	6·6	90·8
33.	Sonoli . . .	700	5	693	0·7	99·0
34.	Yelebail . . .	312	11	301	3·5	96·5
35.	Rakaskop . . .	705	63	557	9·0	79·0
36.	Bijgarni . . .	1,448	8	1,400	0·5	96·7
37.	Navage . . .	857	207	649	24·2	75·7
38.	Hangargi . . .	972	212	760	21·8	78·2
39.	Kiniye . . .	1,056	42	1,014	4·0	96 0
40.	Dhamne S. Bailur .	164	4	160	2·4	97·6
41.	Karle . . .	660	40	620	6·1	93·9
42.	Bhadurwadi . .	443	..	443	..	100·0
43.	Badas Inalm . .	586	1	585	0·2	99·8
44.	Belvatti . .	718	5	713	0·7	99·3
45.	Ranakunde . . .	560	23	429	4·1	76·6
46.	Mache . . .	2,586	698	1,771	27·0	68·5
47.	Sulage (Yellor) .	824	20	804	2·4	97·6
48.	Desur . . .	1,530	201	1,295	13·1	84·7
49.	Nandihalli . . .	1,999	347	1,649	17·4	82·5
50.	Nagenhatti . . .	251	36	215	14·3	85·7
51.	Rajahansgad . .		(Un-inhabited)			
52.	Hosagondanhatti . .	738	102	635	13·8	86·2
53.	Zadshahapur . .	368	7	361	1·9	98·1
54.	Waghawade . .	1,360	119	1,241	8·8	91·2
55.	Somanaikanhatti . .		(Un-inhabited)			
56.	Sugoundanhatti . .		(Un-inhabited)			
57.	Yellur . . .	6,903	686	6,110	9·9	88·5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58.	Kurihal Bk. . .	426	62	358	14·6	84·0
59.	Kurihal Kh. . .	57	42	15	73·7	26·3
60.	Bakanur . . .	278	..	278	..	100·0
61.	Santibastawad . .	1,959	1,112	650	56·8	33·2
62.	Kutalwadi . . .	272	174	98	64·0	36·0
	TOTAL .	75,303	12,230	60,699	16·2	80·6

2,374 are other language groups.

14,604 minority language population stands transferred to Maharashtra along with 60,699 Marathi language speakers.

STATEMENT (2)

List of villages of Belgaum Taluka recommended for retention in Mysore State

S. No.	Name of the Village	Population (absolute)			Percentages	
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Belgaum city (including Shahapur Municipality and Cantonment)	1,46,790	39,150	67,876	26.7	46.3
2.	Belgaum (Rural)	5,138	966	2,116	18.8	41.2
3.	Madhavpur	6,352	3,090	3,049	48.6	48.0
4.	Anagol	8,139	1,999	4,798	24.6	58.9
5.	Wadgaon	4,092	309	3,549	7.5	86.7
6.	Dhamne S. Belgaum	3,914	1,279	2,284	32.7	58.4
7.	Majagaon	5,478	2,166	2,835	39.6	51.8
8.	Peeranwadi including Jaitanmal		(Un-inhabited)			
9.	Sheriyadwal		(Un-inhabited)			
10.	Tammanalkanhatti		(Un-inhabited)			
11.	Yermale	350	338	12	96.6	3.4
12.	Marnhal	343	2	341	0.6	99.4
13.	Kakti	3,441	1,817	1,390	52.8	40.4
14.	Bhutarmanhatti	478	443	35	92.7	7.3
15.	Godihal	66	65	1	98.5	1.5
16.	Ningenhatti	105	99	6	94.3	5.7
17.	Ramdurg	25	25	..	100.0	..
18.	Idalhond	53	25	28	47.2	52.8
19.	Parshyanhatti	34	31	3	91.2	8.8
20.	Sutagatti	491	414	58	84.3	11.8
21.	Halbhavi	353	352	1	99.7	0.3
22.	Hegere	358	356	2	99.4	0.6
23.	Bandiholi		(Un-inhabited)			
24.	Gangenhal		(Un-inhabited)			
25.	Kabalapur	824	729	94	88.5	11.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Nandi	638	626	11	98.1	1.7
27.	Kenchanatti	128	125	3	97.7	2.3
28.	Punagutti	583	576	7	98.8	1.2
29.	Harankol	243	241	1	99.2	0.4
30.	Gutti	234	231	3	98.7	1.3
31.	Rangdholli	191	184	7	96.3	3.7
32.	Hudli	3,616	3,020	61	83.5	1.7
33.	Mallecmardi	9	7	1	77.8	11.1
34.	Otmadu	230	216	14	93.9	6.1
35.	Sonahatti	207	205	1	99.0	0.5
36.	Chandagad	721	128	585	17.8	81.1
37.	Ashte	1,500	462	987	30.8	65.8
38.	Muchandi	2,612	687	1,868	26.3	71.5
39.	Kalakhamb	1,773	590	1,136	33.3	64.1
40.	Kanabargi	4,124	1,976	2,080	47.9	50.4
41.	Yamanapur	741	494	235	66.7	31.7
42.	Bagewadi	5,530	3,826	80	69.2	1.4
43.	Sanknaikankop		(Un-inhabited)			
44.	Mutnal	1,166	1,153	2	98.9	0.2
45.	Kalarkop	87	87	...	100.0	...
46.	Bhendigeri	1,819	1,809	3	99.4	0.2
47.	Virpantop	455	403	2	92.6	0.5
48.	Kukdoli	1,209	1,203	2	99.5	0.2
49.	Gejapati	768	758	2	98.7	0.3
50.	Badas (Khalsa)	1,630	1,420	34	87.1	2.1
51.	Janakatli		(Un-inhabited)			
52.	Ankalgi	2,279	2,278	1	99.9	0.1
53.	Hulikavi	344	341	3	99.1	0.
54.	Sutagatti M. Mardi	793	793	...	100.00	...
55.	Nagerhal		(Un-inhabited)			
56.	Kanavikaravikop	2,381	2,251	17	94.5	0.7
57.	Siddanbhavi		(Un-inhabited)			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58.	Kondaskop . . .	519	258	171	49.7	32.9
59.	Bastawad . . .	3,106	1,775	1,178	57.2	37.9
60.	Shaganmabbi . .	391	355	18	90.8	4.6
61.	Halge . . .	3,499	1,555	1,843	44.4	52.7
62.	Alarwad . . .	1,284	1,165	25	90.7	2.0
63.	Mastmardi . . .	1,065	1,009	56	94.7	5.3
64.	Basarikatti . . .	1,045	113	926	10.8	88.6
65.	Shindholi . . .	1,457	893	471	61.3	32.3
66.	Kudchi . . .	2,943	1,447	1,447	49.2	49.2
67.	Nilgi	1,568	109	1,444	6.9	92.1
68.	Mutage . . .	2,830	745	2,074	26.3	73.3
69.	Sambre . . .	4,353	1,307	2,755	30.0	63.3
70.	Balakundre Kh. .	3,519	1,607	1,392	45.7	39.5
71.	Balakundre Bk. . .	1,321	547	186	41.4	14.1
72.	Honnihal . . .	950	667	219	70.2	23.1
73.	Mudage . . .	1,656	1,466	64	88.5	3.9
74.	Khangaon Kh. . .	917	74	798	8.1	87.0
75.	Khangaon BK. . .	779	681	22	88.7	2.8
76.	Chandur	219	214	5	97.7	2.3
77.	Tumargooldi . . .	720	712	6	98.9	0.8
78.	Yedalbhavihatti . .	149	149	..	100.0	..
79.	Sulebhavi . . .	3,323	2,958	83	89.0	2.5
80.	Marihal	3,314	2,631	69	79.4	2.1
81.	Kardegudi . . .	1,596	1,568	7	98.3	0.4
82.	Mavinkatti . . .	1,005	1,001	3	99.6	0.3
83.	Chandanhosur . . .	962	940	22	97.7	2.3
84.	Tarihal . . .	1,943	599	1,306	30.8	67.2
85.	Kamkarhi . . .	519	117	259	22.5	49.9
86.	Kolikop . . .	179	40	139	22.3	77.7
87.	Basapur . . .	694	415	11	59.8	1.6
88.	Arlikatti . . .	1,617	1,588	29	98.2	1.8
		455	414	5	91.0	1.1
	TOTAL	2,72,712	1,08,874	1,12,757	39.9	41.3

Thus, 51,081 population of speakers of other minority language groups also remains in the State of Mysore with 1,12,757 Marathi speakers and 1,08,874 Kannada speakers. The other language groups including Muslims, Urdu-speakers, wished to stay in the State of Mysore.

CHAPTER I(F)

KHANAPUR TALUKA

The States Reorganisation Commission declined to include this taluka in the State of Maharashtra on the ground that the Marathi majority there was slight being 53.9 per cent. The case of this taluka was decided on administrative grounds.

1.306. The Government of Bombay in their memorandum submitted to the Government of India in 1957 suggested that this taluka should have been allotted to Maharashtra, the Marathi-speaking population being 54·3 per cent.

1.307. The two Maharashtra members on the Four-Man Boundary Committee recommended merger of 206 villages of this taluka in Maharashtra on the ground that the Marathi-speaking population was 54·3 per cent and Kannada speaking 34·5 per cent. Khanapur town had 49:6 per cent Marathi-speakers and 22;5 per cent Kanada-speakers.

1.308. The Mysore members on the Four-Man Boundary Committee were of the opinion that the taluka was a hilly area in the Sahyadri ranges with thick forests and high precipitation. In the villages of Khanapur taluka several inscriptions are found which are in Kannada. River Malaprabha had its source in Sahyadri mountains and flowed through this taluka. The Government of Mysore had taken up an irrigation project there. It was proposed to put a dam near Bhutewadi. It was expected to irrigate 75,000 acres of land in the taluka of Khanapur and Bailhongal. Thus, there was no ground to include this taluka in the State of Maharashtra.

1.309. In the statement presented to this Commission the State of Maharashtra while claiming 206 villages out of 256 including the towns of Khanapur and Nandgad, demanded an area of 587·1 sq. miles with a population of 68,522 which comprised 77% Marathi-speaking people, 12% Kannada-speaking people and 11% others. It was said that in each of the 206 villages and towns Marathi-speaking people formed the largest single language group villagewise except those Kannada-speaking villages which formed enclaves. It was contended that this area was contiguous to the districts of Ratnagiri and Kolhapur in the State of Maharashtra. The repeated expression of the will of the people of the disputed border areas was in favour of Maharashtra. In all the elections that have been held after 1956 candidates favouring transfer to Maharashtra have been returned with a thumping majority routing those who were in favour of continuance in Mysore State. The Village Panchayats of most of these villages as also the Taluka Development Board have time and again passed resolutions expressing their desire that the villages should be transferred to Maharashtra. The people of this

area have also given vent to their feelings for transfer to Maharashtra through meetings, processions, demonstrations etc. Since time immemorial Marathi has been the language of this taluka. The social and religious festivals observed by the people in this taluka are those observed in Maharashtra and not those by the Kannadigas. Out of 22,866 primary school students, 14,213 are Marathi-speaking which constitute more than 60 per cent. There are 1,635 secondary school students, out of whom 1,132 are Marathi-speaking. Thus, the historical, social and cultural ties of the Khanapur taluka are with Maharashtra.

1.310. The State of Mysore in the memorandum presented to this Commission resisted the claim of the State of Maharashtra principally on the grounds that had been taken by the two Mysore members in their report to the Government in 1962. It was said that the western part of the taluka is a hilly area covered with forests. The villages are far flung from each other and some have very meagre population—as low as 7 and 11. This is a part of Malnad area with heavy rainfall. There are few roads and communication is very difficult. In the town of Khanapur, 49·6% speak Marathi 186 villages are Marathi-speaking with a total population of 54,75 rashtra, 'Lokamitra' and 'Saraswat Dnyati Bandhava' were starte gaum in the north and of Supa and Haliyal on the south. This Malnad area needs special development and coordinated planning as expressed by the S. R. Commission. Historically speaking, the taluka has always been ruled over by Kannada kings. Nandgad town is an important trading centre and has a population of 5,343. Several Kannada inscriptions have been found in Khanapur. The Western Ghat called the Sahyadri mountains is the source of many rivers which flow to the east. One of them called Malaprabha has its source in this taluka. The Government of Mysore has taken up an irrigation project called Upper Malaprabha Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 900 lakhs.

1.311. In the memoranda received against merger of this taluka with Maharashtra the arguments already mentioned have been repeated. It was pointed out that 49,036 rural Marathi population of this taluka is spread over 190 villages. Industrial development of this area entirely depends on the power supply from Sherawati and Kali river projects and nothing should be done which is likely to upset the irrigation facilities of the Mysore State. Nandgad town had no communication links with Maharashtra. On the other hand, it has rail and road links on all sides with Kannada areas.

1.312. The memoranda received by the Commission in support of the merger of 206 villages of Khanapur taluka with Maharashtra support the grounds given by the State Government in their memorandum. The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti Taluka Khanapur, District Belgaum, said that Khanapur taluka is considered to be the gateway of Goa territory *via* Tinai Ghat, Kel Ghat and Chorla Ghat, that out of the 222 villages leaving out the deserted villages 186 villages are Marathi-speaking with a total population of 54,175 and that since time immemorial Marathi has been the language in this taluka. Some of the Marathi magazines published in Maharashtra, 'Lokamitra' and 'Saraswat Dnyati Bandhava' were started

in Khanapur as far back as 1890. Twenty-eight Panchayats maintain their records in Marathi. The elections in this area were won by the candidates of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti. People of Khanapur have been agitating for merger with Maharashtra. Several conferences were held in this area under the chairmanship of Shri H. V. Pataskar. Twice the people led morches to Parliament House in August 1957 and December 1958. In 1956 the people launched the Satyagraha movement in the true spirit of the way shown by Mahatma Gandhi. Reference was made to the resolutions of the Marathi Group Panchayats supporting the claim for merger. The names of Panchayats, the resolutions passed by them and the names of persons interviewed by the Commission and who supported the claim of Maharashtra or expressed opinions against their claim are given in Annexure II, Volume II.

1.313. There can be no question that Khanapur taluka on its western side is inhabited by Marathi-speaking people. The Commission paid a visit to Khanapur town and the vast forest areas that are included in the taluka. On the east of the railway line is the area inhabited by the Kannadigas while most of the western side is predominantly inhabited by Maharashtrians. In the forest areas on the west there are small villages situated at a distance from one another and with small population. I have prepared a statement of the villages which have a high percentage of Marathi speakers and which in my opinion, should be transferred from the State of Mysore to the State of Maharashtra and I recommend their transfer. The area occupied by these 152 villages makes a compact zone with the villages recommended for transfer from Belgaum taluka to the State of Maharashtra. They are contiguous to the Ratnagiri and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra. The area proposed to be transferred is marked on the plan annexed with a red boundary line. The area on the west, south west, south and south east sides of the boundary line is mostly forest area with very small population.

1.314. Applying the principle enunciated by me in the first part of this report the 152 villages mentioned in the statement have not only a very high percentage of Marathi speakers but most of the Panchayats of this area have expressed a strong desire for merger in Maharashtra. The total population of the villages and the town of Khanapur which are recommended for merger in Maharashtra is 78,685 out of which the speakers of the Marathi language are 63,340 which works out to 80·5 per cent of the total population. The Kannada population is 7,225, 9·2 per cent. The rest are other language speakers, 8,120, 10·3 per cent. Fifty inhabited and uninhabited villages out of the 206 claimed by the State of Maharashtra have been retained in the State of Mysore. These are small population villages in forest areas, situated at distances from one another. The total population is 9,923 out of which 8,568 is Marathi-speaking and spread over 226·9 sq. miles. In the statement annexed to this chapter is given the forest and cultivated areas in these villages. Mostly the area is forest. It is not the purpose of this Commission to transfer forest area from one State to another. There is no question of linguistic homogeneity in small population residing in such vast forest tracts. 54 Kannada majority villages also remain

in the Mysore State along with 50 Marathi majority villages, making a total of 104 villages and forming one compact area. The population of the Marathi and Kannada villages retained in Mysore is 49,544 out of which 32,996 are speakers of Kannada language and 10,875 Marathi language (Kannada percentage is 66·6 and Marathi 21.9).

1.315. The result of my recommendation is that out of 206 villages claimed by Maharashtra 152 villages including the towns of Khanapur and Nandgad are recommended for transfer to Maharashtra. The area recommended for transfer from this taluka to Maharashtra forms a compact area with the villages of Belgaum taluka also recommended for transfer to Maharashtra in the previous chapter. These 214 villages form a predominantly Marathi zone and satisfy the test I have laid down for adjustment of boundary disputes. The forest areas and the habited and uninhabited small villages have been excluded as no question of linguistic homogeneity arises in their case. Both the towns of Khanapur and Nandgad are recommended for transfer to Maharashtra.

STATEMENT

KHANAPUR TALUKA

List of 152 villages recommended for transfer to the Government of Maharashtra

S. No.	Name of the villages	Population (absolute)			Percentages		Area in sq. miles
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bacholi . . .	163	47	108	28·8	66·3	2·1
2.	Halkarni . . .	259	71	141	27·4	54·4	0·9
3.	Mudewadi . . .	134	11	123	8·2	91·8	0.8
4.	Dukarwadi . . .	133	18	109	13·5	82·0	0·7
5.	Lokoli . . .	1047	30	971	2·9	92·7	1·3
6.	Doddahasur . . .	501	58	442	11·6	88·2	0·6
7.	Boragaon . . .	480	7	345	1·4	71·9	1·5
8.	Bhandargali . . .	247	1	229	0·4	92·7	0·9
9.	Sannahosur . . .	297	12	255	4·0	85·9	1·1
10.	Nidgol . . .	584	35	544	6·0	93·1	0·8
11.	Topinkatti . . .	1442	99	1342	6·9	93·0	2·2
12.	Bidarbhavi . . .	450	101	349	22·4	77·6	1·1
13.	Jainkop . . .	145	50	95	34·5	65·5	0·8
14.	Vaddebail . . .	514	109	405	21·2	78·8	0·8
15.	Hadalgi . . .	403	44	359	10·9	89·1	0·9
16.	Khairwadi . . .	802	122	679	15·2	84·7	1·9
17.	Bekwadi . . .	1211	90	1029	7·4	85·0	2·8
18.	Junjwad . . .	815	53	695	6·5	85·3	2·7
19.	Bhutewadi . . .	352	1	343	0·3	97·4	0·8
20.	Nandgad Kasaba .	1087	19	965	1·8	88·8	6·1
21.	Nandgad Mouze .	6224	1554	2459	25·0	39·5	2·2
22.	Navage . . .	515	14	434	2·7	84·3	2·5
23.	Hebbal . . .	1314	72	1214	5·5	92·4	0·4
24.	Koralgi . . .	1232	11	1205	0·9	97·8	3·8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Kavanada . . .	477	1	417	0·3	87·4	1·2
26.	Honakal . . .	400	..	395	..	98·8	1·3
27.	Karambal . . .	760	2	753	0·3	99·1	1·5
28.	Jalaga . . .	510	13	497	2·5	97·5	0·8
29.	Sivali . . .	317	..	317	..	100·0	0·7
30.	Allihol . . .	173	1	167	0·6	96·5	0·8
31.	Chapgaon . . .	1145	252	885	22·0	77·3	1·8
32.	Vankebail . . .	(Uninhabited)					
33.	Yadoga . . .	396	13	383	3·3	96·7	0·6
34.	Kuppatageri . . .	756	53	696	7·0	92·1	1·6
35.	Rumewadi . . .	621	43	564	6·9	90·8	1·1
36.	Asoga . . .	570	14	547	2·4	96·0	2·2
37.	Manasapur . . .	661	16	401	2·4	60·7	3·2
38.	Idalhonda . . .	911	1	897	0·1	98·5	1·8
39.	Singenkop . . .	318	80	235	25·2	73·9	0·6
40.	Ankale . . .	561	3	554	0·5	98·8	0·8
41.	Genebail . . .	387	4	376	1·0	97·2	1·6
42.	Nittur . . .	459	14	418	3·0	91·1	1·8
43.	Katgali . . .	339	49	288	14·4	85·0	4·2
44.	Ramgurvadi . . .	774	55	689	7·1	89·0	3·1
45.	Nagurda . . .	393	34	359	8·7	91·3	2·1
46.	Harsanwadi . . .	178	..	175	..	98·3	0·8
47.	Malavi . . .	61	..	61	..	100·0	0·4
48.	Alloli Kansoli . .	380	1	377	0·3	99·2	2·8
49.	Modekop . . .	194	25	169	12·9	87·1	1·1
50.	Otoli . . .	168	..	168	..	100·0	2·6
51.	Ghodedurg . . .	27	..	27	..	100·0	2·0
52.	Kanjale . . .	143	..	143	..	100·0	1·2
53.	Ambolie . . .	302	75	226	24·8	74·9	2·6
54.	Nilavade . . .	229	..	229	..	100·0	1·4
55.	Dharoli . . .	139	..	131	..	94·2	1·1
56.	Budse . . .	10	..	10	..	100·0	0·9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
57.	Jamboli	1356	60	1254	4·4	92·5	5·3
58.	Olmani	711	..	668	...	94·0	2·5
59.	Kalyali	23	..	23	...	100·0	2·7
60.	Bailur	795	16	779	2:0	98·0	7·8
61.	Morab	85	2	78	2·3	91·8	1·5
62.	Sonarwadi	(Uninhabited)					
63.	Uchavade	151	..	151	...	100·0	3·3
64.	Tirthkunde	607	212	395	34:9	65·1	5·6
65.	Kavale	23	..	23	..	100·0	2·0
66.	Kankumbi	1179	18	1099	1·5	93·2	12·4
67.	Talawade	353	..	351	..	99·4	5·8
68.	Betne	213	28	184	13·6	97·8	6·0
69.	Karanjwade	21	..	21	..	100·0	2·9
70.	Betagen	169	..	168	..	99·4	2·2
71.	Amte	728	2	724	0·3	99·4	5·5
72.	Golayali	557	..	557	..	100·0	2·3
73.	Devachinatti	129	..	126	..	97·7	0·9
74.	Torali	401	..	401	..	100·0	6·9
75.	Habbanatti	214	..	211	..	98·6	0·9
76.	Kokati	(Uninhabited)					
77.	Kusamali	310	1	308	0·3	99·4	0·9
78.	Tivoli	587	..	586	..	99·8	3·9
79.	Manturge	617	..	513	..	83·2	4·9
80.	Shadegali	319	10	309	3·1	96·9	1·1
81.	Haruri	345	20	324	5·8	93·0	0·9
82.	Shindoli	195	..	195	..	100·0	1·4
83.	Gangawali	148	1	146	0·7	98·6	1·1
84.	Dokegali	132	..	132	..	100·00	0·9
	Gunji	1,414	82	1,184	5.8	83.7	3.5
	Bimbegali	(Uninhabited)					
	Ambewadi	96	..	96	..	100.0	1.9
	Parselkop	(Uninhabited)					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
89.	Dongargaon	238	..	238	..	100.0	6.0
90.	Teregali	97	..	95	..	97.9	2.9
91.	Shiroli	473	1	471	0.2	99.6	3.8
92.	Manikawadi	392	16	376	4.1	95.9	1.2
93.	Doddebail	115	3	112	2.6	97.4	0.6
94.	Chankebail	51	..	50	..	98.0	1.3
95.	Halshi	2,791	543	1,809	19.5	64.8	6.3
96.	Naikol	37	..	37	..	100.0	1.4
97.	Gargungi	2,601	62	2,499	2.4	96.0	4.4
98.	Khemewadi	121	..	118	..	97.5	0.5
99.	Hattargungi	299	..	299	..	100.0	1.1
100.	Sagarai	281	..	281	..	100.0	1.4
101.	Nanjinkodal	338	20	318	5.9	94.1	0.9
102.	Kirhalshi	381	22	359	5.8	94.2	2.4
103.	Mendegali	392	..	392	..	100.0	1.5
104.	Hattarwad	554	90	464	16.2	83.8	3.0
105.	Channewadi	262	1	261	0.4	99.6	0.9
106.	Gundopi	483	13	438	2.7	90.7	2.1
107.	Halaga	777	14	762	1.8	98.1	2.4
108.	Merda	372	21	345	5.6	92.8	2.5
109.	Bijagarni	567	1	516	0.2	91.0	2.1
110.	Savargali	240	..	228	..	95.0	2.0
111.	Bhalka Kh.	68	..	68	..	100.0	0.9
112.	Bhalka Bk.	87	..	87	..	100.0	1.1
113.	Kamatage	301	..	301	..	100.0	2.4
114.	Karanjal	93	1	92	1.1	98.9	2.2
115.	Padalwadi	144	1	128	0.7	88.9	1.4
116.	Simpewadi	192	1	191	0.5	99.5	1.6
117.	Halsal	430	..	429	..	99.8	1.9
118.	Anagadi	374	..	374	..	100.0	1.6
119.	Kapoli KG	849	2	844	0.3	99.4	4.5
120.	Diggegali	194	1	193	0.5	99.5	1.
121.	Malwad	404	1	402	0.2	99.5	0.
122.	Shindoli Kh	70	..	70	..	100.0	0.7
123.	Shindoli Bk	111	..	111	..	100.0	1.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
124.	Bhatewadi	44	..	44	..	100.0	0.9
125.	Gotgali	364	..	364	..	100.0	2.9
126.	Shivathana	324	..	312	..	96.3	1.6
127.	Watre	199	1	198	0.5	99.5	4.1
128.	Ghose Kh	100	1	99	1.0	99.0	2.4
129.	Ghose Bk	48	..	48	..	100.0	1.3
130.	Potoli	38	..	38	..	100.0	0.9
131.	Machali	81	..	81	..	100.0	1.1
132.	Manjarpai KG	62	..	62	..	100.0	0.8
133.	Satnali	62	..	62	..	100.0	1.4
134.	Jatage	320	2	318	0.6	99.4	0.9
135.	Londa	4,003	565	2,310	14.1	57.7	2.0
136.	Junjwad KG	378	58	320	15.3	84.7	2.7
137.	Balgi	275	179	96	65.1	34.9	0.9
138.	Sungargali	577	39	264	6.8	47.5	0.8
139.	Chorla	824	6	814	0.7	98.8	14.4
140.	Kalmani	405	10	394	2.5	97.3	3.3
141.	Huland	213	1	206	0.1	96.7	9.6
142.	Chigule	409	..	407	..	99.5	9.0
143.	Kalgeri	(Uninhabited)					
144.	Mudwad Pimple	253	13	240	5.1	94.9	3.0
145.	Kodagai	152	4	115	2.6	75.7	1.5
146.	Kalkopi	(Uninhabited)					
147.	Devarai	435	49	262	11.3	60.2	0.7
148.	Moskenhatti	286	65	209	22.7	73.1	2.0
149.	Sonhetti	70	..	69	..	98.6	2.2
150.	Khanapur (Urban)	8,127	1,580	4,420	19.4	54.2	2.2
151.	Kumaratwadi	27	2	12	7.4	44.5	2.0
152.	Parwad	442	5	436	1.1	98.7	5.5
	TOTAL	78,685	7,225	63,340	9.2	80.5	345.0

STATEMENT

KHANAPUR TALUKA

List of Fifty Villages in South-West and South-East recommended for retention in Mysore

S. No.	Name of the village	Population (absolute)			Percentages		Total area	Area (in acres & guntas)	
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi		Cultivable area	Forest area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Sithawadi	174	3	168	1·7	96·5	2·3 sq. m.		
2.	Chikhale	449	8	439	1·8	97·8	5,446-10 (8·8 sq. m.)	197-38	5,347-52
3.	Gavase	50	..	50	..	100·0	2,519-38 (4·0 sq. m.)	476-37	2,043-01
4.	Amgaon	173	3	170	1·7	98·3	8,168-35 (13·2 sq. m.)	531-19	7,637-16
5.	Chapoli	230	..	230	..	100·0	6,953-11 (11·2 sq. m.)	410-15	6,542-36
6.	Holda	7	..	7	..	100·0	2,976-27 (4·8 sq. m.)	136-13	2,840-14
7.	Kelil	33	..	33	..	100·0	4,122-19 (6·5 sq. m.)	258-15	3,864-04
8.	Mendil	63	..	63	..	100·0	3,956-19 (5·4 sq. m.)	519-15	3,437-04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Deogaon	43	..	43	..	10·0	1,476-28 (2·6 sq. m.)	39-37	1,436-31
10.	Gavali	367	2	364	0·5	99·2	12,819-35† (16·8 sq. m.)	1,993-19	10,826-15
11.	Pastoli	49	..	49	..	100·0	1,649-29 (0·9 sq. m.)	101·01	1,548-28
12.	Kiravale-Kapoli	25	1	24	4·0	96·0	(3·1 sq.m.) 2,779-11**	362-13	2,416-38
13.	Mugawade	211	..	211	..	100·0	(1·4 sq. m.)		
14.	Kabnali	37	..	37	..	100·0	2,150-26 (3·6 sq. m.)	143-33	2,006-33
15.	Kongali	107	1	106	0·9	99·1	1,973-03 (4·8 sq. m.)	127-39	1,845-04
16.	Jamgaon	128	3	125	2·3	97·7	3,559-21 (5·7 sq. m.)	205-27	3,353-34
17.	Hemmadage	376	30	337	8·0	89·6	2,276-11 (12·9 sq. m.)	381-31	1,894-20
18.	Kiravale K Gunji	135	..	135	..	100·0	2,374-01 (3·1 sq. m.)	282-03	2,091-38
19.	Warkadpatiya	380	..	380	..	100·0	7,040-10 (11·3 sq.m.)	401-20	6,638-30
20.	Akrali	516	2	512	0·4	99·2	7,432-19 (12·2 sq. m.)	689-32	6,742-27
21.	Adali	104	..	104	..	100·0	1,756-32 (2·9 sq. m.)	119-20	1,637-12

22.	Abnali	128	..	128	..	100·0	2,801-27 (4·6 sq. m.)	183-05	2,618-22
23.	Tanali Urf Bhimgad	Uninhabited					(3·7 sq. m.)		
24.	Nerse	407	..	407	..	100·0	4,841-10 (7·7 sq. m.)	761-31	4,079-19
25.	Mohisel	241	..	240	..	99·0	3,180-30 (5·1 sq. m.)	296-15	2,884-15
26.	Kalnaikanhatti	Uninhabited					(1·2 sq. m.)		
27.	Kapoli-k-Chapoli	269	5	264	1·9	98·1	1,787-25 (3·1 sq. m.)	276-04	1,511-21
28.	Chinchewadi	29	..	29	..	100·0	995-13 (1·7 sq. m.)	117-32	877-21
29.	Suwatwadi	117	..	109	..	93·2	1,404-12 (2·3 sq. m.)	165-19	1,238-33
30.	Jambegali	182	..	72	..	39·6	2,345-37* (1·9 sq. m.)	351-36	1,994-10
31.	Bastwad	92	..	72	..	78·3	1,196-09 (1·9 sq. m.)	220-24	975-25
32.	Karajagi	229	18	184	7·9	80·3	3,330-29 (5·3 sq. m.)	415-32	2,914-37
33.	Mudaganur	Uninhabited					(2·0 sq. m.)		
34.	Ibrahimpur	Uninhabited					(0·7 sq. m.)		
35.	Manjarapai	Uninhabited					(3·0 sq. m.)		
36.	Awaraitbail	Uninhabited					(3·4 sq. m.)		
37.	Posekop	Uninhabited					(2·7 sq. m.)		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
38.	Somset			Uninhabited			(0·3 sq. m.)		
39.	Sulegali	58	2	47	3·5	81·0	839-38 (1·6 sq. m.)	256-23	583-15
40.	Nagargali	414	68	216	16·4	52·2	9,519-34 ‡ (10·3 sq. m.)	123-00	9,396-34
41.	Kumbarde	373	155	192	41·6	51·4	3,213-10 (5·3 sq. m.)	188-15	3,024-35
42.	Bamankop	83	..	79	..	95·2	391-27 (0·6 sq. m.)	146-30	244-37
43.	Tarwad	118	..	118	..	100·00	1,200-02 (2·0 sq. m.)	389-29	821-23
44.	Kirupoli			Uninhabited			(4·7 sq. m.)		
45.	Godolli	1,331	47	1,080	3·5	81·5	2,875-25£ (3·4 sq. m.)	1,271-06	1,604-19
46.	Godgeri	894	56	829	6·3	92·7	756-21 (1·3 sq. m.)	550-15	196-06
47.	Balgund	193	31	154	16·1	79·8	2,951-20@ (1·3 sq. m.)	192-39	2,758-21
48.	Tavargatti	510	110	326	21·6	63·9	2,714-05 (4·4 sq. m.)	400-26	2,313-19

49. Pur	399	87	236	21·8	59·2	1,031-15 (1·8 sq. m.)	784-25	246-30
50. Gharli	199	..	199	..	100·0	(2·1 sq. m.)		
TOTAL . . .	9,923	632	8,568	6·4	86·3	226·9 sq. m.		

*Includes area of Posekop.
‡Includes areas of Kirpoli.
@Includes area of Manjarpai K Kakkeri and Awartbail.

£Includes areas of Amblikop and Jangamhatti.
†Includes area of Tanali Urf Bhimghad.
**Includes area of Kirawale K Chapoli.

STATEMENT

KHANAPUR TALUKA

Kannada Villages to be retained in Mysore

S. No.	Name of the Village	Population (absolute)			Percentages	
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Kannada	Marathi
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Devlatti	1,551	1,502	14	96.8	0.9
2.	Parishwad	2,349	1,662	51	70.	2.2
3.	Godikop	521	521	..	100.0	..
4.	Hirehattiholi	1,048	905	8	86.3	0.8
5.	Jiknur	242	240	2	99.2	0.8
6.	Hirnaloli	1,520	1,340	50	88.2	3.3
7.	Kamashinkop	671	667	4	99.4	0.6
8.	Chikadiakop	581	580	1	99.8	0.2
9.	Lakkebail	615	332	268	54.0	43.6
10.	Kodachwad	1.000	967	15	96.7	1.5
11.	Deminkop	82	78	4	95.1	4.9
12.	Kaggangi	298	278	2	93.3	1.0
13.	Chikhattiholi	641	637	4	99.4	0.6
14.	Chikmanoli	1,121	1,071	22	95.8	2.0
15.	Itgi	4,460	4,249	25	95.3	0.6
16.	Begur	868	779	..	89.8	1.0
17.	Gandigwad	3,105	2,711	22	87.3	0.7
18.	Telagi	1,302	1,199	50	92.1	3.8
19.	Awaroli	917	904	1	98.6	0.1
20.	Bankibasarikatti	228	169	..	74.1	..
21.	Bilki	Uninhabited				
22.	Algankop	Uninhabited				
23.	Talwarkop	Uninhabited				
24.	Bilmari	Uninhabited				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Ambigapur	Uninhabited				
26.	Kadekop	Uninhabited				
27.	Hulinghal	25	25	..	100.0	..
28.	Hullkottal	438	348	2	79.4	0.5
29.	Chikangrolli	293	234	2	79.9	0.7
30.	Hireangrolli	661	651	1	98.4	0.9
31.	Handur	742	695	1	93.7	0.1
32.	Kasoonalgi	741	587	44	79.2	6.0
33.	Mangyankop	1,098	1,052	10	95.8	0.9
34.	Bidi	1,989	1,400	357	70.4	17.9
35.	Golihalli	682	451	95	66.1	13.9
36.	Kerwad	666	655	..	98.3	..
37.	Ghastoli	444	205	144	46.2	32.4
38.	Surapur	175	126	44	72.0	25.1
39.	Kukkenhatti	356	41	11	11.5	3.1
40.	Bhuranki	803	639	101	79.6	12.6
41.	Kakkeri	2,214	1,422	115	64.2	5.2
42.	Karikatti	279	133	..	47.7	..
43.	Chunchwad	569	208	167	36.6	29.3
44.	Ningammatti	1,197	917	28	76.6	2.3
45.	Gandoli	323	137	55	42.4	17 0
46.	Bhistenhatti	100	41	11	41.0	11.0
47.	Janganmetti	16	14	2	87.5	12.5
48.	Adi	626	128	36	20.4	5.8
49.	Balikodal	Uninhabited				
50.	Karvinkop	309	305	4	98.7	1.3
51.	Kadatanbaglewadi	1,164	1,095	11	94.1	0.9
52.	Bendewadi	Uninhabited				
53.	Amblikop	Uninhabited				
54.	Hindalgi	591	64	514	10.8	87.8
	TOTAL	39,621	32,364	2,307	81.6	5.8

REFERENCE

MAP
OF THE
SOUTH SHOLAPUR TALUKA
OF THE
SHOLAPUR COLLECTORATE
Compiled from Topographical Survey of India.
Scale 2 Miles = 1 Inch.

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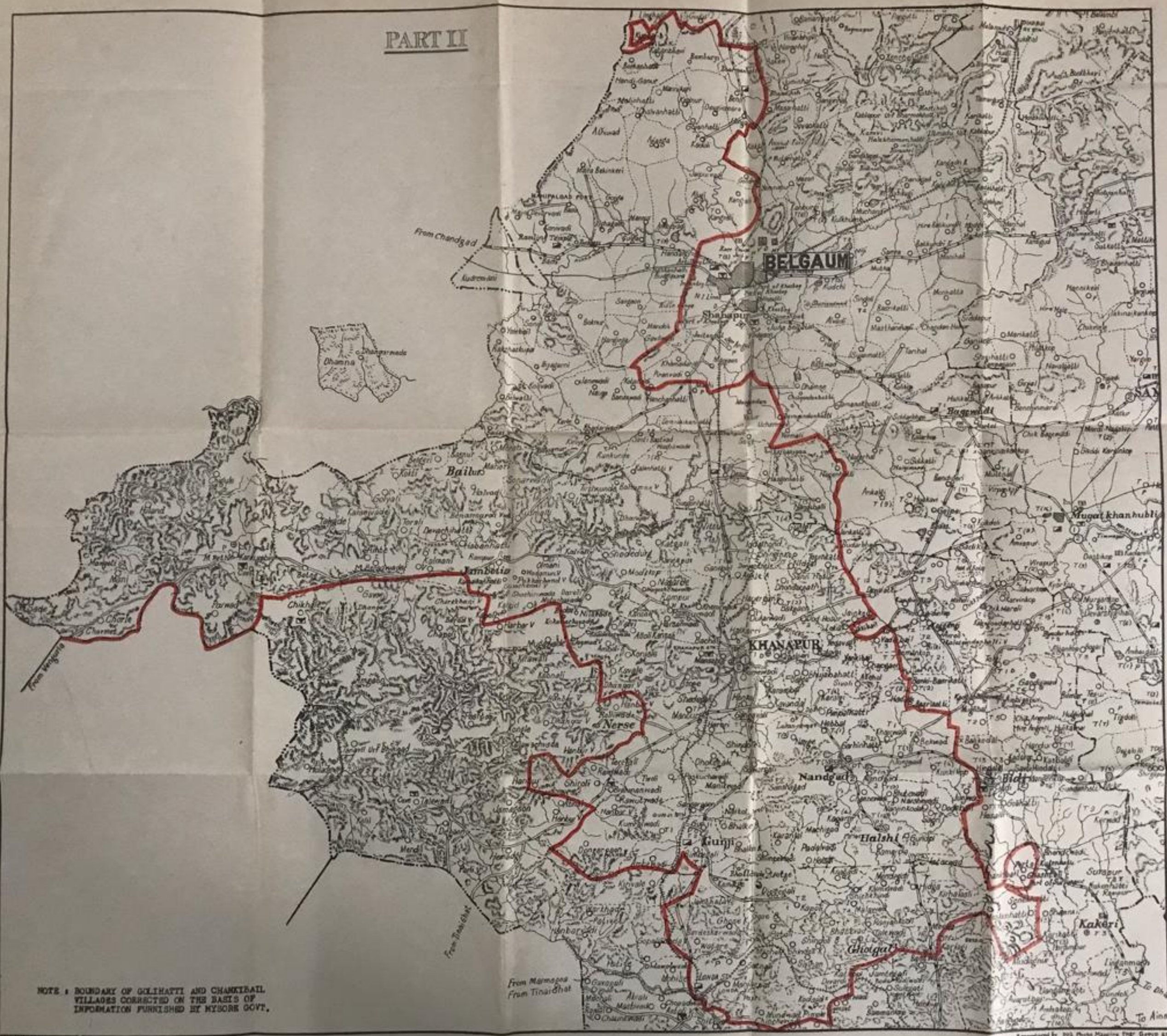
PART II



NOTE : BOUNDARY OF GOLIHATTI AND CHANKIBAIL VILLAGES CORRECTED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY MYSORE GOVT.

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MAP OF

BELGAUM DISTRICT

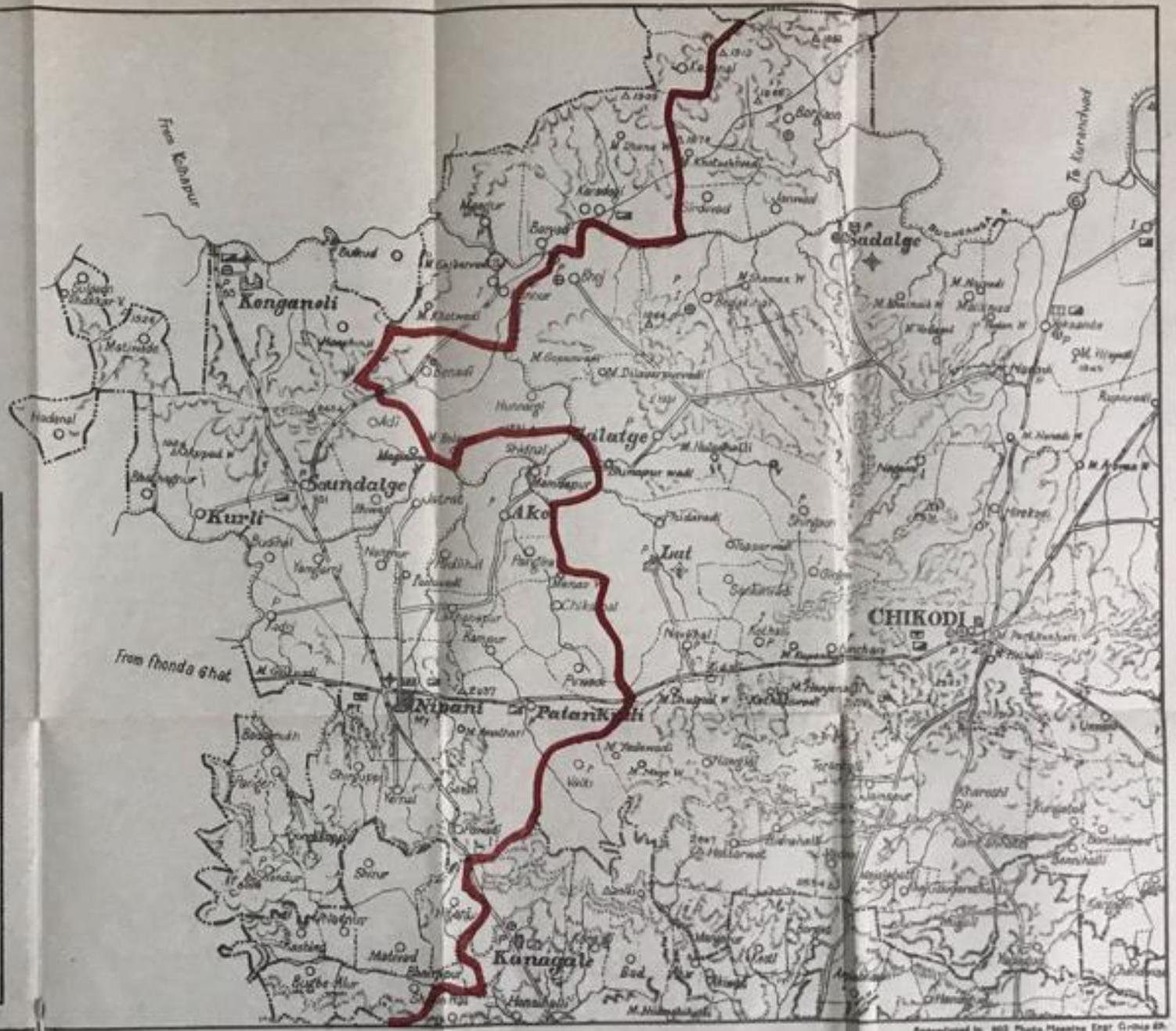
PART I

MYSORE

Scale 2 miles to an inch

REFERENCES

State boundary		Tanks, Canals	
District "		Bungalow Suitable for Gazetted officers	DB
Taluk "		Small Rest House or Dharmashala Suitable only for Subordinates	
District Head Quarters		1st Class Motor Roads i.e. Fit for driving by day or night	
Taluk "		2nd Class Motor Roads i.e. Practicable for Strong touring Cars with a full Clearance in day light if Cautiously driven	
Kasba and Bazar Village			
Bazar Village, Deserted Village		OBSTACLES ON MOTOR ROADS:	
Post and Telegraph office	P T O	Ferry Boat (able to take touring cars)	1
Hospital, Dispensary	H D	Hard Causeway, Passable except in Flood	2
Municipality	M	do do in dry Season, November to May end	3
Places of Pilgrimage	P.	Ford, depth in dry Season not exceeding 1½ feet	4
Inam Village, Khoti	I. K	Tidal Ford, falling below 1½ feet at low tide only	5
S.T.S. Station	S.T.S.	Not Crossable, except at unusually low tides or with Special arrangements	6
Mahal, Tarf	M. T	Ghat Roads over which Motors are not allowed at night	
Ferry	F	Other roads and cart tracks	
Police Stat.on (whose not as a Taluk Head Quarter)		Ayurvedic Dispensary	A D
Railway and station		Veterinary Dispensary	V D
Rivers and Streams			



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CHAPTER II

NORTH KANARA DISTRICT

In the district of North Kanara included in the State of Mysore by the States Reorganisation Commission, the Government of Bombay claimed 50 villages in Karwar taluka with a population of 67,107 Marathi and Konkani percentage being 78; 131 villages in Supa taluka with a population of 17,451 Marathi and Konkani percentage being 84; and 120 villages in Haliyal taluka with a population of 31,122 Marathi and Konkani speaking being 67. It was said that in its structure as well as vocabulary Konkani is closely affiliated with Marathi.

2.2. The Mysore Government resisted the claim and suggested that Konkani that is spoken in the northernmost region is moulded more or less by the Marathi language while that spoken in the two Kanara districts and south-west has been moulded by Kannada, Malayalam etc. It said that Konkani is an Aryan language very much resembling Balabhasha; Konkani people themselves wanted the Census Officers to declare that it was an independent language and not a dialect of Marathi. It could not, therefore, be grouped with the Marathi language to support the claim of minority of Maharashtrians in these talukas for their merger in the State of Maharashtra.

2.3. The percentage of Marathi-speaking population in the talukas of Karwar, Haliyal and Supa is 8, 40 and 30, respectively. It was further urged that the North Kanara District had no contiguity with any part of the State of Maharashtra and that historically, the North Kanara District has always been a part of the Karnatak region.

2.4. The two Maharashtrian members on the Four-Man Committee in their report said that this area is contiguous to Marathi tract of Belgaum district which itself is contiguous to Maharashtra and Konkani is a dialect of Marathi.

2.5. The Mysore members on the Four-Man Committee repudiated the claim of Konkani being added to Marathi. They said that Konkani is not Marathi and cannot be considered for acquiring linguistic homogeneity. It was further said that all these areas have thick forests with very sparse population. Villages are not compact villages. A farm with a hut for residence is a unit by itself and there are no village communities proper. Land tenures are also different. Culturally major part of Karwar district has affinities with the Kannada districts of Dharwar, Belgaum and the districts of old Mysore area. Several communities in the district are followers of His Holiness Sri Shankaracharya Mutt of Sringeri of the old Mysore State.

2.6. In Karwar town the Kannada-speaking population is 22·2 per cent while Marathi is 17·6 per cent. As regards Supa, the Revenue

Sub-Division is called Peta, having a lesser status than a taluka. The Government of Mysore after reorganisation has made it a taluka. It is a forest area situated in the midst of Sahyadri range. It consists of 127 villages with an area of 731·9 sq. miles. The total population consists of 18,114 souls. There are 13 villages which are deserted and have no population. Out of the total population, Marathi-speaking people are only 7,217.

2.7. Haliyal is mostly a forest area above the Ghats. The total population of the Haliyal town is 16,368, percentage of Marathi-speaking is 35 and that of Kannada-speaking is 26; only 10 per cent speak Konkani. Those who speak other languages are 28 per cent.

2.8. The town of Haliyal is situated at a distance of 20 miles from Dharwar which is a Kannada area. The nearest railway station of Haliyal is Alnavar at a distance of 7 miles and it is in Dharwar taluka.

2.9. Number of memoranda were received regarding these talukas A synopsis of the memoranda received by the Commission, the persons interviewed by it and the views of those who support the Government of Maharashtra and of those who support the stand of the Government of Mysore are given in Annexure III, Volume II. A few important ones are given herein.

2.10. The Government of Maharashtra in their memorandum submitted on 31st March, 1967, stated as follows:

> Prior to the reorganisation of States in 1956, North Kanara district was included in the then Bombay State. With the reorganisation of the States, it came to be included in the Mysore State. The claim of the Government of Maharashtra to the villages in three talukas of the district is based on the principles of contiguity, village as the unit, relative language majority and wishes of the people. For the purpose of computing relative language majority, the Government of Maharashtra have included the Konkani-speaking people in the Marathi-speaking people. Great philologists, scholars and gentlemen in public life whose mother tongue has been Konkani have arrived at the following conclusions:
>
> "Konkani dialects have developed out of an older form of the current standard Marathi, and that in grammar, syntax and vocabulary, they bear very close resemblance to the standard Marathi. It is true that they differ from standard Marathi in some respects, but these differences are no more marked, and no more important than they are between any two Konkani dialects. These differences moreover are due to accidents of history and are such as commonly exist in the spoken versions of any language. Konkani, therefore, appears to us to be a dialect of Marathi."

2.11. It was said that the above conclusion is in accord with the conclusion of the other scholars of established repute. In his Linguistic Survey of India. Vol. VII, page 164, Sir George Grierson affirms

that Konkani is the dialect of Marathi and definitely controverts the suggestion that it is an independent language. He also specifically mentions that the missionaries of Goa and Mangalore contend that Konkani is not a dialect of Marathi and controverts it pointing out that the contention is based on the misconception that dialect connotes a deterioration of some other form of speech.

2.12. Sir Ramkrishna Bhandarkar, whose mother tongue was Konkani, refers to "Goan Konkani" as "Goanese Marathi."

2.13. Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee holds the view:

> "It is well known that Kannada is an important Dravidian language and it differs basically from Indo-Aryan speech like Marathi, Konkani and the rest. With regard to the relationship between Marathi and Konkani, opinions differ ....Konkani and Marathi, therefore, are to be regarded closer and allied speeches and for all practical purposes the Konkani which is split up in numerous dialects, can be regarded as being within the orbit of Marathi."

2.14. Encyclopaedia Britannica also supports the view that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi.

2.15. The former Government of Bombay as far back as 1948 took the view that Konkani is not an independent language. It is only a dialect of Marathi.

2.16. The Fact-Finding Committee (States Reorganisation), 1954, consisted of important personalities from the princely State of Mysore. They quoted Grierson's opinion contained in his Linguistic Survey of India, that—

> "Kanaree is bounded on the north and west by Marathi and its dialect Konkani, on the east by Telugu and Tamil and on the south by Tamil, Kodagu and Tulu."

The Committee also admitted that Konkani is allied to Marathi.

2.17. The Government of Maharashtra summarised their case in para 5.26 at page 61 of their memorandum thus—

> "(1) Everyone including the Government of Mysore is unanimous on the point that Konkani language belongs to an Indo-Aryan group of languages to which Marathi belongs; whereas Kannada belongs to an entirely different system of languages known as Dravidian languages.
>
> (2) The morphology and the structure of the Konkani language are akin to those of Marathi.
>
> (3) A number of eminent philologists and linguists of international fame as well as scholars and historians have held that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi.
>
> (4) Eminent persons whose mother tongue has been Konkani have unequivocally accepted that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi.

(5) It is demonstrably true that any one who knows Marathi can easily follow Konkani of Karwar, Supa and Haliyal talukas and that any person whose mother tongue is Konkani in these talukas has no difficulty in following Marathi.

(6) Dr. Katre, Shri Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Mr. Silva who are of the opinion that Konkani is an independent language, have agreed that Konkani is most akin to Marathi.

(7) The Government of the pre-reorganised Bombay State and the Government of Mysore had held that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi.

(8) The Government of India have also by necessary implication held the same view while ordering the opinion poll in Goa.

(9) Various Konkani dialects have no standard form because all the Konkani-speakers have all along given their allegiance to Marathi only as their language of traditional literature and literary expression.

(10) The people of Karwar, Supa and Haliyal talukas have by passing resolutions unequivocally expressed the opinion that Konkani language belongs to Marathi family."

2.18. The case of the Government of Maharashtra is supported in all its aspects by the memorandum presented by the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, Karwar, where its leading members also came in for interview with the Commission and discussed the matter with it. The annexures to this memorandum gave quotations from the Karwar Municipality's Centenary Souvenir and cited the opinion of Dr. S. K. Chatterji about Konkani, a letter of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru dated 15th March, 1956 and "Kali te Gangavalli" (Marathi publication). A table of comparative sentences of Marathi and their analysis in Konkani was appended. Specimens of land records in Marathi were given. A list of books in Karwar General Library was filed along with a memorandum of Karwar Taluka Development Board. The annexures give a list of communities in Karwar, Supa and Haliyal. A bunch of resolutions passed by the Village Panchayats and Taluka Development Boards in support of their thesis was annexed. Reference was made to Kanara Gazetteer, Mysore Gazetteer, Census Report of 1951, Language Handbook of 1951 and to a book about the "Future of Bellary Taluka" by justice Misra. Report of the Fact-Finding Committee appointed by the Mysore Government was also cited. Publication of Dr. Buchanan's Journey was annexed along with the Linguistic Survey of India by Dr. Grierson, History of Marathas by Grant Duff, Rise of Maratha Power by Justice Ranade and History of Maratha People by C. A. Kincaid. The publication of Grand Rebel by Dennis Kincaid was cited. Writing on the Formation of Konkani by Dr. S. M. Katre, a memorandum on Kankani language by D'Silva and Granthik Marathi Ani Konkani Bolee (Marathi publication) by Shri Priyolkar were referred to.

2.19. The Government of Mysore in their memorandum dated 31st March, 1967, said that the whole of this area was known as

Kanara or Kannada. The official language of both the districts has been Kannada ever since they have been under the British rule.

2.20. In 1950, the Government of Bombay chose to declare the talukas of Karwar, Supa and Haliyal s bilingual—not because the Marathi-speaking population was of that magnitude, but because they wanted to enforce the theory that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi and that it should be added to and counted as Marathi for all linguistic calculations. In this way the total number of Marathi-speaking persons was taken to be more than 20 per cent., which was the minimum to recognise any language as bilingual. This action of the Bombay Government evoked a storm of opposition from the public both in the press and on the platform all over Karnatak. It was characterised as uncalled for and one engineered with the help of a particular local District Officer. With a view to pacify this agitation and to allay the feelings of the general public, a Press Note was issued by the Government of Bombay on 24th June, 1953, clarifying that the Government order was only with a view to helping the people to get recognised as bilingual merely for the purpose of receiving Notices and communications from Government in that language and that the orders have no political significance.

2.21. Konkani language has its variations. The people of Karwar and Mangalore speak Konkani which has a greater mixture of Kannada. In his book "The Formation of Konkani" Dr. S. M. Katre, Professor of Indo-Aryan Philology remarks—

> "Thus the dialects spoken in the two Kanaras (*i.e.* Districts of South and North Kanara) drew upon Kannada for fresh vocables. . . . While the settlers in Maratha country drew upon cognate Marathi to enrich its own vocabulary."

2.22. Most of the Konkani-speaking people in the district of Karwar know Kannada as well. At the time of 1951 Census, out of a total of 153,737 Konkani-speaking people, 74,156 have declared their subsidiary language. Out of them 68,716 have declared Kannada as their subsidiary language while 5,120 only have declared Marathi as such. It not only shows that most of the Konkani-speaking people knew Kannada but it also indicates that their leaning is more towards Kannada than towards Marathi. This goes counter to the theory of affinity and sisterhood of languages put forth by the Government of Maharashtra.

2.23. Similarly, out of a total of 36,330 persons of Karwar district whose mother tongue is Marathi, 13,479 persons have declared their subsidiary language. Out of them 1,068 have declared Konkani as their subsidiary language while 12,179 have declared Kannada as such.

2.24. All these talukas have thick forest areas with very sparse population. Villages are not compact places of human habitation. They are wide apart. Groups of two or more villages are called Maganies. The land tenures are quite different in this area. There is no similarity in any way between the system of land tenures in Konkani districts as compared to the districts of North and South

Kanara. Culturally major parts of Karwar district have affinities with the Kannada districts of Dharwar, Belgaum etc. and also with the districts of old Mysore area. Karwar taluka is not contiguous to any part of Maharashtra State. If contiguity has to be established, it could only be through the talukas of Belgaum, Khanapur, Haliyal and Supa which are all in Mysore State. Karwar is one of the finest and safest natural harbours on the West Coast of India.

2.25. The few Marathi-speaking villages in the centre of the taluka of Haliyal are surrounded on all sides by areas consisting of villages which are either deserted or unpopulated or by villages where neither Marathi nor Konkani language is predominant. Even the central area where there are Marathi-speaking villages is interspersed with other areas. Teak wood and other forest produce like bamboo from these forests have earned a name.

2.26. In April 1950, the then Government of Bombay had declared that the three talukas of Karwar, Haliyal and Supa were bilingual on the ground that Konkani is akin to Marathi and that Marathi should also be used for official purposes. The result of this privilege given to Marathi language in these three talukas was very meagre. During the year 1961 the Taluka Office, Haliyal, received 2,998 applications of which only 11 were in Marathi. Similarly, the total number of correspondence in that office amounted to 17,500 and these were either in Kannada or in English and none at all in Marathi. The number of documents registered in he Sub-Registrar's Office a Haliyal and Supa were all in Kannada excepting a few. Even in the general elections of 1962, the electoral rolls were printed both in Kannada as well as in Marathi but there was no demand for the Marathi language copies.

2.27. In another part of the memorandum, the claim of the Government of Maharashtra that for purposes of linguistic homogeneity, persons speaking Konkani language should be added to those of Marathi, has been examined. The claim is based on the ground that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi. When the Government of Mysore disputed this proposition, and came out with a case that Konkani is an independent language and not a dialect of Marathi, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra replied that Marathi and Konkani both belong to the same family, namely, Aryan family of languages on the ground that both are derived from Sanskrit. In short, according to him, if Konkani is not a daughter of Marathi, she is undoubtedly its sister.

2.28. Scholars, historians and linguists are sharply divided and some hold views, which are almost diametrically opposite to those of some others. There are three schools of thought. Broadly speaking, one puts forth the view that Kankani is a dialect of Marathi, there is another which asserts that Marathi is derived from Konkani and there is a third which maintains that Konkani is an independent language, having no kinship with Marathi.

2.29. After a deep and thorough study of the question, Dr. S. M. Katre, Professor of Indo-Aryan Philology, has reached the conclusion that Konkani is a separate language from Marathi and not a dialect of the latter.

2.30. In the Madras District Gazetteer (South Kanara) a reference is made to the Saraswats who have migrated from Goa. It is said:

> "It (Konkani) is believed to be the corrupt form or a dialect of Marathi, but in fact it is neither. It is a direct offshoot of the Eastern Magadhi Prakrit and is thus cognate with Eastern languages of North Indian States of Mythili."

2.31. After comparing the grammatical mechanism of Konkani languages with that of other Aryan languages, Dr. Dalgado, another authority on this subject, concludes that Konkani belongs to Aryan group. He observes that—

> "Konkani is an Aryan language, inflexive and non-Dravidian. It resembles much the Balabhasha. It is less distant from Sanskrit in grammatical organisation and vocabulary than Marathi. It is not a dialect or corruption of Marathi."

2.32. Shenai Goibab, another scholar of Konkani, maintains that it is an independent language. He is a Goan himself and has written a valuable book entitled "Konkanichi Vyakarani Bandavala".

2.33. Apart from the opinion of scholars and historians, the opinion of the Konkani-speaking people themselves is also contrary to the view taken by the Government of Maharashtra. The Third Konkani Conference held at Bombay in 1942 said:

> "That the Konkani language is an independent language and not a dialect of Marathi language."

2.34. At a subsequent conference held in Karwar in May 1961, a resolution was passed expressing the same stand.

2.35. In the census enumerations, Konkani is treated as an independent language and shown separately from Marathi. The significance of this fact is sought to be watered down by the Maharashtra Government by saying that this separate enumeration is only from 1931 onwards and that prior to it Konkani was treated as a dialect of Marathi. This overlooks the better light thrown on the problem by later investigations and findings and the most recent conclusions of the Government, which remain unchanged even to this day.

2.36. Govinda Pai, a linguist, a research scholar and a Poet laureate of Madras, refutes this theory of a common Prakrit being the parent of both these languages.

2.37. In the note to the 1961 Census, the latest view of Government is given that Konkani is not a dialect of Marathi.

2.38. Those who supported the stand of the Mysore Government contend that there is no substantial majority in any one of these talukas of the Marathi speakers. In Karwar taluka Marathi is practically insignificant. The argument that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi is not supported by linguists like Dr. S. M. Katre of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute. In his opinion, Konkani is an independent language.

2.39. The entire Supa taluka is a forest area. Petty villages with only 10 or 12 houses are to be found interspersed here and there. In 75 villages the population is less than 100; in 43 villages it is less than 50; and in some it is not more than 10 or 12, with only one or two houses. How can a wealthy forest region be given for the sake of a handful of people?

2.40. Elected representatives of the people of Karwar taluka in Mysore State and of various Village Panchayats in Karwar taluka have unreservedly supported the continuation of these areas in Mysore State. Ten members of Karwar Town Municipal Council expressed the same opinion. Eighteen members of other village Panchayats in this taluka have also subscribed to the continuation of *status quo*.

2.41. The Mysore Government's case was strongly supported by the memorandum presented to the Commission by Shri P. S. Kamat of Karwar. Shri Kamat is an Ex-MLC, Bombay, Ex-Senate Member of Karnatak University, Ex-President, Taluka Congress Committee of Karwar and he also holds various other honorary offices including the Presidentship of the Bar Association of Karwar. He was born in Karwar in 1899 and educated and bred up at Karwar. He participated in the Independence movement since 1921 up to 1947 and in all political, social and educational activities in the district and State since then. It is his earnest desire that *status quo* should be maintained in the interests of all concerned. He further said that these talukas have no contiguity with Maharashtra territory; that Khanapur and Supa talukas are separated by natural barriers of vast forest and mountain ranges and the whole forest area of Supa taluka cannot be split into such undesirable proportions with little advantage to any of the States. The northernmost villages in these two talukas, which may be called as inhabited villages, are not at all contiguous. Vast stretches of forest intervene and even though the crow fly distance make them nearer areas, the actual communication facilities allowed by nature would remove them to a great distance from each other and a little experience with actual geographical and topographical knowledge of this forest area would surely explore the theory of contiguity of these two talukas. Shri Kamat when interviewed gave very balanced answers and the Commission was impressed by the manner in which he gave evidence.

2.42. Shri Sen and Shri Misra appearing on behalf of the Maharashtra Government and on behalf of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti drew my attention to the expert opinion and further contended that Konkani is only a spoken language and cannot have the status of an independent language, that in any case as it appears from the evidence and from the various memoranda of experts, research scholars, linguists and academicians, its kinship with Marathi is fully established and, therefore, Konkani should be added to Marathi in order to establish linguistic homogeneity of these areas with Maharashtra.

2.43. Shri Nambiar on behalf of the State of Mysore contended that the expert opinion was evenly divided and that the note of 1961 Census clearly showed that the theory that Konkani is a dialect of

Marathi, is a blown out theory. It cannot now be watered down. He also said that the Konkani people in three different conferences have said that this is a separate independent language and they have no linguistic affinity with Marathi-speaking people.

2.44. Shri Nambiar also drew my attention to the large number of Konkani-speaking persons who have given evidence against merger of these areas in Maharashtra. He emphasized the fact that language which the masses understand can alone be considered to decide linguistic homogeneity and it can, therefore, be the spoken language that is understood by the masses, that matters. He also contended that there was no contiguity of the areas with the existing border lines of the State of Maharashtra. It was further said that the linguistic complexion and the geographical situation of the villages was against the theory of linguistic homogeneity.

2.45. After a careful consideration of the arguments of the learned counsels and the material collected by me or placed before me by the contending parties, I have reached the conclusion that the villages in the three talukas claimed by Maharashtra cannot be recommended to be included in that State.

2.46. My own impression is that people who were interviewed, a large number of them, with few exceptions, were briefed either by the Congress Party, the Karnatak Samiti or the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti and the bodies supporting it. Most of them presented to me memos which seemed to have been prepared by a common source. A large number of such copies had been cyclostyled and handed over to the persons who came for interview and they gave these to me. People came with a bias and a special pleading for either side of the case. Hardly a Marathi-speaking person interviewing me was prepared to say that Konkani is an independent language even if he did not fully understand Konkani. Similarly those who came to say that Konkani was an independent language, and particularly the Kannada-speaking people, were not prepared to concede either that Konkani was a dialect of Marathi or was akin to it or that there was any case for merger of these areas in Maharashtra. Even eminent persons, highly respectable and holding positions of eminence and responsibility, succumbed to this bias and were obsessed either with the Maharashtra claim or with the *status quo* version of Mysore. People who came from different villages or Sarpanches of Panchayats were similarly coloured by the views of those who were leading either the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti or the Congress. Amongst the Konkani speakers, the evidence was of a very contradictory nature. Some prominent Konkani speakers not only repudiated the Maharashtra claim that Konkani was a dialect of Marathi but they asserted that, as a matter of fact, Marathi was born later than Konkani, that Konkani was an independent language and that Konkani-speaking people were thinking of getting it added to the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and some were even of the view that there should be a separate Konkani State. Those Konkani speakers who came to support the case of Maharashtra or who were under the influence of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, however, emphatically declared that it was a dialect of Marathi or, in any case, akin to it. One Member of Parlia-

ment even asserted that Konkani was Marathi and Marathi was Konkani, and no question arose of Konkani being a dialect of Marathi. Experts who appeared before me, as is usual with all experts in all subjects when their opinion is called for, also put in a special pleading in support of their opinions. While going about the area and consulting opinion of people and wishes of people, it is difficult to say that any strong case has been made out for merger of these areas with Maharashtra.

2.47. Great emphasis was laid on the results of elections which were fought on one side by candidates of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti and on the other side by the Congress. This evidence on the question at issue is not of much help. The Congress never opposed the Samiti or joined issue with it on the question of language and the Congress lost because not of the verdict of the people on the language issue but owing to other causes.

2.48. Expert opinion about Konkani being a dialect of Marathi is sharply divided. As a lay man I will not venture to tread into a domain in which experts hold divergent views and to decide whether Konkani is a dialect of Marathi or is so akin to it as to be regarded as Marathi. I have no hesitation, however, in deciding that Konkani speakers of these areas cannot be added to Marathi speakers for the purpose of giving Marathi language predominance and to give the Marathi speakers the benefit of the principle of linguistic homogeneity which would entitle them to take these villages to Maharashtra. There is plenty of material on the record that Konkani is spoken in different forms and in different ways and is not necessarily as a spoken language understood by all the persons who speak Marathi and *vice versa.*

2.49. I agree with Shri Nambiar's arguments that linguistic homogeneity is not the homogeneity of experts or of those who know both the languages, but linguistic homogeneity is the homogeneity of the common man. Does a common man who speaks Marathi understand Konkani or a common man who speaks Konkani understand Marathi? Answer must be in the negative. If these people cannot understand each other apart from philologists or experts and speakers of both the languages, does it really matter if once upon a time it was an Indo-Aryan language from which it descended?

2.50. I cannot accept the view of Shri Misra that a language which is purely spoken is only a dialect. When questioned he could cite no authority for this proposition except his own.

2.51. Shri Sen had argued that all the publications, all the papers and periodicals in Karwar or in Hubli were in Marathi and there were no periodicals in any other language. Shri Nambiar very sharply reacted against this contention and said it was absolutely incorrect. He cited from the report of the two Mysore members on the Four-Man Boundary Committee wherein it has been said that even to this day Kannada script holds its field as a popular vehicle for Konkani language. This is evident from the fact in a cosmopolitan city like Bombay where there are Konkani people from all

parts of the western coast, newspapers and magazines are run exclusively in Konkani language to cater to the needs of the Konkani people. They are in Kannada script even to this day. "Poinnari" is a magazine printed at Sundar Art Printing Press, Frere Road, Bombay. It was established in 1950 and claims to be India's foremost Konkani newspaper. "Zhelo" is a Konkani fortnightly magazine published at Agra Road, Kurla, Bombay. "Vishala Konkan" is another weekly news magazine in Konkani printed from Bombay. "Mitra" is another Konkani language weekly published at Bombay and it claims the largest readership of any Konkani news magazine. All these publications are printed in Konkani language but in Kannada characters obviously because the reading public is mostly conversant with Kannada script.

2.52. Shri Sen very strenuously urged before me that Konkani and Marathi are so integrated in these areas that they can only be regarded as one language group and for purposes of linguistic homogeneity, he placed reliance in inter-change of Census figures of 1951 and 1961 in a certain number of villages. Marathi high percentage in 1951 became Konkani percentage in 1961 and *vice versa* in a number of villages. From a few of such changes he concluded that Konkani-speaking people had no hesitation in getting themselves enumerated as Marathi-speaking and Marathi-speaking people had no hesitation in getting themselves enumerated as Konkani-speaking. They mingled with one another and treated themselves as the same. In my opinion this contention is unsound and based on very meagre material. The inter-change in the Census figures of Marathi speakers into Konkani speakers and Konkani speakers into Marathi speakers in a few villages may be the result of the enumerator's own doing and the result of his own understanding. The conclusion that it was at the instance of the people that the Census authorities made this inter-change does not follow. Be that as it may, the instances are not so numerous as to necessarily lead to such a conclusion.

2.53. In the three Konkani Conferences the Konkani people themselves resolved that Konkani is an independent language and not a dialect of Marathi, and they wanted to maintain an independent status and did not like to coalesce with Marathi people.

2.54. The Konkani language has been treated as an independent language in the Census operations from 1931 up to 1961. For the purposes of my enquiry it is the best evidence of the fact that it is an independent language. It was at the instance of the Konkani people that the Census authorities were obliged to record Konkani speakers separately. In the 1961 Census it was clearly stated that the theory that Konkani is a dialect of Marathi is an exploded one and that the latest thinking is that it is an independent language.

2.55. As Shri Misra put it, the heart of the case in regard to these three talukas is whether Konkani can be added to Marathi for linguistic homogeneity and for merger of these areas in Maharashtra. As stated above, I cannot add Konkani to Marathi for purposes of linguistic homogeneity.

2.56. Public Prosecutor told me at Karwar that not a single pleading in Marathi has been filed in Karwar District Court.

2.57. The members of the District Bar of Karwar and Haliyal support the view of the State of Mysore. I attach considerable importance to their testimony.

2.58. If Konkani is not added to Marathi, then there is no stable and sizeable majority of the Marathi speakers in these areas. In Karwar it is not more than 8 per cent or so. In Supa it is below 39 per cent. In Haliyal there are certain villages which have Marathi majority but these villages are so inter-mixed with Kannada villages that they do not form a compact area. On the basis of language, there is no case made out to merge these areas in Maharashtra.

2.59. Be that as it may, it is an admitted fact and cannot be denied that these three talukas by themselves have no contiguity with the existing border of Maharashtra. It was contended by Shri Sen and Shri Misra that if they get Belgaum and Khanapur then contiguity can be established. Shri Nambiar replied by saying that contiguity must be with the existing border of Maharashtra. The border that may be reorganised or laid down after the Commission's report or as a result of the Parliamentary statute, will not be an existing border but will be the future border and as one does not know what that border is going to be, the matter has to be decided on the basis of the existing border and it is evident that these areas have no contiguity whatsoever with the existing borders of Maharashtra. I agree with the contention of Shri Nambiar. The claim of Maharashtra has to be rejected on this ground as well.

2.60. It may also be mentioned that so far as Supa area is concerned, 93% is forest. The population is about 17,000 to 18,000. The villages are far apart from one another. Some of them are situated 8 to 10 miles apart. One villager who came to see me told me that in order to go to the other village they have to travel 32 miles. It is also evident that over six months in the year Supa taluka is land-locked. It has no communication during the rainy season with any part of the district of Karwar. People have to keep their food stored for these months. How can there be any linguistic homogeneity and fraternizing of people living in such areas with people living in Maharashtra, I fail to understand. Allowing the claims of the Government of Maharashtra will mean that the Commission will be recommending transfer of 93% of the forest wealth of Mysore to Maharashtra. The same is the case with Haliyal, which is also mostly a forest area.

2.61. It is unnecessary to consider the argument of Shri Nambiar that the whole of Malnad area should be kept within one State as said by the S.R.C. Report and hence *status quo* should be maintained.

2.62. In the additional claim that the State of Maharashtra has put forward, they have given up a number of villages originally claimed in the taluka of Supa as well as in the taluka of Haliyal,

but they claimed seven villages in addition to the ones already claimed in the original statement in the taluka of Haliyal. As I have totally rejected the claim of the State of Maharashtra regarding the District of North Kanara, the additional claim also cannot be considered and has to be disallowed.

CHAPTER III

DISTRICT BIDAR

The States Reorganisation Commission proposed that the entire district of Bidar should be joined to the residuary State of Hyderabad (Andhra State). They observed:

> "Consistently with our general view that districts should not be broken up, except when compelling reasons for doing so exist, we have recommended that Bidar should not be disintegrated merely in order that linguistic claims in the north-west or in the south may be respected. We consider that it should remain with the residuary Hyderabad State."

3.2. This proposal met with opposition from members of both the linguistic areas, Marathawada and Kannada in the Hyderabad Legislature. There was strong agitation against it from the public of neighbouring Kannada districts of Raichur and Gulbarga and from the public of Marathawada. Ultimately it was decided by mutual agreement between all the three linguistic groups among the members of the Hyderabad Legislature that the district should be trifurcated and that out of 9 talukas, comprising the District of Bidar, two should be allotted to Andhra Pradesh, three to Maharashtra and the remaining four to Karnatak.

3.3. This unanimous agreement was communicated to the Central Government and when the States Reorganisation Bill was introduced in Parliament, it contained a provision that the four Kannada talukas. *i.e.*, Bidar, Humnabad, Bhalki and Santpur (Aurad), should be tagged on to the district of Gulbarga and that Bidar should cease to be the headquarters of a district. This proposal also created dissatisfaction. Public feeling was that Bidar should not lose its status as a district. There was consensus of opinion among all the groups on this point. An amendment was moved by the Chief Minister of Hyderabad to give effect to this agreement in the S.R. Bill. The amendment suggested by the Hyderabad Assembly received the assent of the Government of India and it was ultimately adopted by Parliament and was incorporated in the S.R. Act, with the result that the district of Bidar retained its District status and was comprised of the four talukas of Bidar, Humnabad, Bhalki and Santpur (Aurad).

3.4. The Bombay Government in the year 1957 in its memorandum submitted to the Central Government laid claim to 28 villages in the taluka of Humnabad having 63% Marathi speakers. In Bhalki taluka it claimed 49 villages, Marathi-speaking population being 59%. In Santpur taluka, 69 villages were claimed, Marathi-speaking population being 60%.

3.5. Census figures show an overwhelming majority of Kannada population in each of these talukas. In Humnabad taluka Telugu was 11%, Marathi 17%, Kannada 48% and others 24%. In Bhalki Telugu was 3%, Marathi 37%, Kannada 48% and others 12%. In Santpur Telugu was 7%, Marathi 38%, Kannada 41% and others 14%.

3.6. The claim was resisted by the State of Mysore on the ground that the unanimous decision arrived at between all the linguistic groups for keeping Bidar as a district and comprising four talukas in their entirety could not be reopened and that the *status quo* should be maintained.

3.7. The matter was also examined by the Four-Man Boundary Committee. The Pataskar Report submitted to the Government of Maharashtra allowed the claim on the ground that the areas claimed were predominantly Marathi-speaking. The two Mysore members, on the other hand, said that there was unanimity amongst all the linguistic groups that the district of Bidar should be retained as a separate district with or without other areas of Gulbarga being added to it, and that if any of the members of Marathawada entertained a feeling that some villages in the talukas of Bhalki, Santpur and Humnabad ought not to be transferred to Mysore because these were Marathi-speaking, they suppressed this desire so that Bidar should remain as a separate district unit. They possibly entertained a fear that if the claim for a few villages in these three talukas was pressed forward, that would come in the way of Bidar getting the status of a district in the new State. It was stated that all the Marathi villages of the talukas of Bhalki and Santpur had facilities of communication with the respective taluka headquarters and with Bidar, the district headquarters and that there were no similar facilities of communication with the taluka headquarters of Nilanga or Udgir and with the district place, Osmanabad.

3.8. The State of Maharashtra in the statement of the case presented to this Commission stated that the district of Bidar in the erstwhile Hyderabad State was a trilingual district. It had 39% Marathi, 28% Kannada, 16% Telugu and 15% miscellaneous population. No single group had an absolute majority. The District was, therefore, trifurcated and the talukas of Nilanga, Ahmedpur and Udgir were allotted to the Bombay State, the talukas of Zahariabad and Narayankhed to Andhra Pradesh and the four talukas of Bidar, Bhalki, Santpur and Humnabad to the State of Karnatak.

3.9. Some areas of Humnabad, Bhalki and Santpur talukas having a preponderance of Marathi speakers and contiguous to the State of Bombay thus came to be included in the State of Mysore. No adjustments of these areas could be made between the Marathi and Kannada members of the Hyderabad Assembly. The people of these villages have been agitating since the reorganisation of States in 1956 for their inclusion in the State of Bombay.

3.10. It was said that the convenience of these people lay in their being put in Maharashtra. In Appendix V of the memorandum, the difficulties and hardships suffered by the Marathi speakers of these areas have been mentioned in detail. The memorandum mentioned that in the general elections held in 1957 both the candidates from Bhalki double-member constituency of the Samyukt Maharashtra Samiti won by a large majority. In Hulsur constituency, the Samiti candidate captured the seat by a majority of 4,600 votes against the President of the District Congress Committee, who was a candidate of the Joint Front of the Congress and the Karnatak Ekikaran Samiti. In 1962 elections, the Samiti could only win the seat from Hulsur and narrowly lost the seats from Bhalki and Santpur. In the Panchayat elections of 1959, the Samiti won a majority of 42 out of 64 Village Panchayats of Bhalki taluka. In the year 1960, the Taluka Board elections were held in Bidar district. In Bhalki taluka the Samiti won 11 seats out of 19 and in Santpur taluka, it won 11 seats out of 15.

3.11. The statement submitted to this Commission by the Government of Mysore resisted the claim and said that there were no substantial grounds for allowing it. Most of the villages claimed by Maharashtra had trade relations with Bhalki if not with Kalyan. Apart from the administrative links it has with Bidar as a district place, Bhalki is also connected with Bidar by trade relations. The residents of the disputed villages in this taluka are not prepared for the transfer of their villages without the town.

3.12. As regards the taluka of Humnabad, it was said that on 10th November, 1965, the Government of Mysore formed a new taluka Basavakalyan by attaching to it 85 villages of Humnabad and 22 villages from Bhalki. Basavakalyan is the headquarters of the taluka. Out of 28 villages claimed by Maharashtra, 27 have gone to Basavakalyan. The percentage of Kannada-speaking population is 48 and Marathi-speaking 17, 20% speaking other languages. Linguistic complexion of any place or area is never stable and it is capable of fast changes under stress of circumstances. If the villages claimed by Maharashtra are transferred, the economic links between those villages and Basavakalyan will be cut off resulting in great economic dislocation.

3.13. Santpur and Aurad are two principal towns in Santpur taluka. Aurad is the headquarters of the taluka. The population of 69 villages claimed here is 46,669. Percentage of Kannada is 41 and that of Marathi 38. Both the towns are connected by road to Bidar. The distance between Bidar and Santpur is 28 miles. There is no road connecting Santpur to any other near about important town in Maharashtra. Administratively, it is more convenient that the areas claimed and the taluka remain in the district of Bidar. Facilities of communication of this taluka are with Bidar, the district headquarters. There are no similar facilities with Nilanga, Udgir and Osmanabad. This circumstance overweighs the consideration of linguistic homogeneity.

3.14. The Mysore Government contended that in view of the agreed division of the district of Bidar and of the allotment of the talukas by mutual consent to the three linguistic groups in Hyderabad Assembly, the matter should not be reopened. It was

said that the Government of Maharashtra does not deny that the trifurcation of the district of Bidar and the apportionment of the taluka as above said between the three linguistic regions was a matter of common consent. What they seem to urge is that Marathawada Members of the State Assembly of Hyderabad were not in agreement in respect of some of the villages which were parts of the talukas that were allotted to Mysore State. When it was agreed that the four specific talukas should remain in the district of Bidar which was to go to Mysore, it was implicit therein that all the villages constituting these talukas were also agreed to be allotted to the new State of Mysore. It is difficult to understand the distinction that is sought to be drawn by Maharashtra Government when they say that the Marathi members agreed that the four talukas be allotted to the Mysore State, it did not mean that they agreed to the transfer of all the villages comprised in them.

3.15. A reference was made to the letter of Shri B. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister of Hyderabad, dated 3rd May, 1956, addressed to Shri G. B. Pant in which he said:

> "As you are aware, the four Kannada talukas of Bidar District were proposed originally by the Bill to be merged with Gulbarga District. It is the unanimous desire of the Kannadigas and others of the State that Bidar District should be retained as a separate unit and those talukas should not be merged with Gulbarga as proposed in the Bill. There was complete unanimity in the Assembly regarding this matter."

3.16. The fact remains that in the Hyderabad Assembly, the Marathi members did agree to and did vote for the transfer of the said four talukas to the State of Mysore and it was thought that if the four talukas would be too small to form a separate district, certain areas from the neighbouring district of Gulbarga may be added to it.

3.17. The present claim of the State of Maharashtra extends to 146 villages, out of the total 451 comprised in these three talukas. The claim amounts to claiming a whole taluka. Thus, instead of the allocation of four talukas to Mysore in the agreed division of the District of Bidar, the allotment would be reduced to three talukas. It would not have been possible then to give Bidar the status of a separate district. It is just possible that members of Marathawada might have thought it fit not to press their claim for a few villages in the three talukas of Bidar district lest that claim might come in the way of the latter retaining its position and status of a district. It might also be that they were well aware that if claim for a few villages in a taluka was pressed, that claim would not be accepted by the other members. The Central Government also would not agree to such a claim as it would involve transfer on the basis of village units. Knowing the weakness of their demand, they must have thought that discretion was the better part and thus agreed to the transfer of the entire four talukas to Mysore. Having gained one step by a common agreement and having thus made their position secure, they now turn round and

advance the present claims. The parties should not be allowed to trifle with their agreements and to go back on the decisions thus brought about on the basis of the understandings reached.

3.18. The Government of the State of Maharashtra denied that any such agreement was arrived at. The claim to the villages having Marathi majority in the three talukas was never given up. Several members from the Marathawada in the Hyderabad Assembly made this demand in very clear terms and as a result of it, a clause was added to the States Reorganisation Bill to the following effect:

> "That the Union Government may appoint a Boundary Commission to settle the boundaries of the States to be formed in a satisfactory manner."

3.19. This amendment having been unanimously agreed to in the Hyderabad Assembly, the amendments regarding transfer of various areas to Maharashtra were withdrawn. The matter was left to be considered by a Boundary Commission.

3.20. The amendment regarding appointment of a Boundary Commission did not find favour with the Government of India. The Union Home Minister in his speech in the Lok Sabha on 31st July, 1956, said that he was not enamoured of the idea, and pointed out that the scope of the Zonal Councils had been enlarged and two things, which had been specifically mentioned for the consideration of the Zonal Councils were the settlement of boundary disputes and safeguarding of the interests of linguistic minorities. In view of this assurance, the question of appointment of a Boundary Commission was not pressed. The letter of the Chief Minister of Hyderabad referred to by the the State of Mysore was written to stress particularly the amendments suggested in the States Reorganisation Bill by the Hyderabad Assembly and to point out that it was the unanimous desire of the Kannadigas and others of the State that Bidar should be retained as a separate unit. In the opinion of the State of Maharashtra, the purpose of writing this letter was to make the Union Home Minister and the Select Committee accept the Hyderabad Assembly's recommendation in respect of Bidar district, as it was an important deviation from the original Bill. It would have been positively harmful to his case if mention was made about amendments moved in the Hyderabad Assembly about transfer of certain areas of the three talukas to Maharashtra. There were already misgivings as to whether four talukas would be considered sufficient to constitute a district. If it had been mentioned that there were demands for transfer of portions of those talukas to another State, the case for constituting the four talukas into a separate district would have been further weakened. It was, therefore, prudent on the part of the Chief Minister of Hyderabad not to mention those demands in that letter. But the absence of such a mention cannot be construed, in the face of the proceedings of the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly to mean, as has been considered by the Mysore representatives in their report, that there were no such demands or that the demands were withdrawn in the larger interests of retaining Bidar as a district. The speeches made by Marathawada members for transfer of some areas of Bhalki,

Humnabad and Santpur to Maharashtra show that they were also among the persons who supported the demand for continuing Bidar as a district. These two things were not in their mind mutually exclusive.

3.21. Number of memoranda have been received for or against merger of these areas in Maharashtra. During the Commission's two-day sittings in Bidar, a large number of persons interviewed it and also presented memoranda. These are contained in Annexure IV, Volume II.

3.22. Shri Sen and Shri Misra appearing for the State of Maharashtra and the Samiti, emphasised the view point of the State of Maharashtra. It was argued that there was really no greement between the members of the Marathawada and the members of Karnatak in the Hyderabad Assembly on this point and even if there was such an agreement, the State Government of Maharashtra was not bound by it. On the merits of the demand the contention was that according to the village unit formula and the principle of linguistic homogeneity, these villages should be included in Maharashtra and that this would be in accordance with the wishes of the people as evidenced by the election results of 1957 and 1962 to the State Assembly as well as the election results of the various Panchayats in these areas. The people of these areas have been agitating from 1956 onwards to get their claim accepted by the Central Government etc. They were experiencing great hardships because Kannada language had been made compulsory by the State of Mysore. The education of their children is suffering and in the matter of employment they are discriminated, even their complaints are not being heard by officers because all of them are speakers of Kannada language. The only solution for removal of these hardships was by merging these villages in Maharashtra.

3.23. Shri Nambiar while strongly supporting the case of the Government of Mysore, said that it was the unanimous wish of all linguistic groups in the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly that Bidar should be given the status of a district by the inclusion of these four talukas in Karnatak. The draft S. R. Bill had included these talukas in the district of Gulbarga. A strong opposition was raised against this clause and after considerable agitation, this provision in the Bill was amended and in accordance with the unanimous wish of the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly, Bidar was given the status of a district by including these talukas in it without any reservation. He said that it was implicit in this decision that these talukas were permanently attached to the district. If it was intended that any portions of these talukas on the ground of language were to be taken out from the Karnatak State, then Bidar could not have been given the status of a district as it was already one of the smallest districts in the State. The demand to exclude 146 villages from the three talukas in question and to include them in Maharashtra was a demand which was inconsistent with the unanimous decision to give Bidar the status of a district. He, therefore, contended that it must be held that according to unanimous views of all language groups, the Parliament accepted the suggested amendment and incorporated it in the S. R. Act giving Bidar the status of a district and no opposition was raised

against it in the Parliament. It seems clear that the Marathawada members did not raise any opposition because to do so would be inconsistent with Bihar being given the status of a district. He argued that the 1967 elections in which no candidate of the Samiti was elected showed the mind of the people and the public opinion. Moreover, the linguistic complexion of these villages was not so grave as to make it obligatory on the Commission to include these villages in Maharashtra. These areas during the last ten years had become an integral part of the district and everybody was happy with it except a few politicians and language fanatics. Most of the difficulties mentioned during the enquiry were exaggerated. The Mysore Government was doing its best to develop these areas and to remove all hardships that the Marathi-speaking people in these areas were experiencing.

3.24. Having given due considerations to the arguments addressed to the Commission by the Governments concerned, I am unable to accept the claim made by the State of Maharashtra for reasons given below.

3.25. It was not denied that all the linguistic groups in the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly unanimously decided that Bidar should be given the status of a district. A provision was accordingly incorporated in the S. R. Act to give effect to this decision. This was passed by Parliament without any opposition and without any reservations and limitations. In the opinion of the Commission that decision must be respected. If the members of the Marathawada in Parliament were of a different opinion, they should have insisted for incorporating the amendment for a Boundary Commission suggested by the Hyderabad Assembly in the Act or should have moved amendments for inclusion of these areas in the State of Maharashtra. The statement of the Home Minister about the powers of the Zonal Councils was no substitute for a Boundary Commission. It seems to me that if such an amendment was moved, it would have been thrown out, it being inconsistent with Bidar being given the status of a district comprised of full four talukas. If 146 villages are excluded from this district, it would not be possible on administrative grounds to maintain it as a district.

3.26. It is implicit in this unanimous decision that these four talukas in their entirety must be kept in Bidar so that it maintains its old status of a district. The linguistic considerations seem to have been overweighed by administrative considerations. To give Bidar the status of a district was a compelling reason against linguistic consideration.

3.27. Shri Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister of Hyderabad State in the letter referred to above said as follows:

> "I wish to stress particularly the amendments regarding territorial adjustments and regarding Bidar district.
>
> "As you are aware, the four Kannada taluqas of Bidar district were proposed originally by the Bill to be merged with Gulbarga district. It is the unanimous desire of the Kannadigas and others of the State that Bidar dis-

trict should be retained as a separate unit and those taluqas should not be merged with Gulbarga as proposed in the Bill. There was complete unanimity in the Assembly regarding this matter. It was also suggested in the amended resolution that if the four taluqas are considered insufficient to constitute a district, necessary area from the adjoining area of Gulbarga may subsequently be added by the successor Government. I have had a talk regarding this matter with Shri Hanumanthaiya and he has agreed that Bidar may be retained as a separate district. I think he will be writing to you shortly. As this is an important deviation from the original Bill, I hope you and the Select Committee will kindly accept it as it is based on the unanimous opinion of the people concerned.

"The other territorial adjustments have been suggested unanimously by the Assembly in view of the fact that the people of those areas would have otherwise had to face practical difficulties."

No reference whatsoever was made in this letter about the claim of Marathawada to these areas.

3.28. The State of Maharashtra in their statement of the case submitted to the Commission while referring to this letter stated as follows:

"It was not only necessary for the Chief Minister for this purpose to mention in this letter that certain amendments had been moved for transfer of some parts of the four talukas of Bidar district to Maharashtra and that they were withdrawn as a result of the proposed amendment for establishment of a Boundary Commission, but to do so would have been positively harmful to his cause. There was already misgivings as to whether four talukas would be considered sufficient to constitute a district. If it had been mentioned that there were demands for transfer of portions of those talukas to another State, the case for constituting the four talukas into a separate district would have been further weakened. It was therefore, prudent on the part of the Chief Minister of Hyderabad not to mention those demands in that letter. But the absence of such a mention cannot be construed, in the face of the proceedings of the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly, to mean, as has been done by the Mysore representatives in their report, that there were no such demands or that the demands were withdrawn in the larger interest of retaining Bidar as a district. The extracts from speeches quoted above show that the persons who demanded the transfer of some areas of Bhalki, Humnabad and Santpur to Maharashtra were also among the persons who supported the demand for continuing Bidar as a district. These two things were not to their mind mutually exclusive."

3.29. I am afraid, I cannot accept the explanation which accuses the Chief Minister of *suppressio veri* with a purpose. To my mind, the two things are not mutually exclusive. If these demands were pressed, the case for constituting the four talukas into a separate district would not only have been weakened but negatived.

3.30. The Mysore Government in para 254 of their statement of the case says as follows:

> "The present theory of the Maharashtra Government that even at that time Marathi people had their own claim in respect of several villages from the three out of the four talukas allocated to Bidar District is inconsistent with their attitude in the Hyderabad Assembly. Their present claim extends to 146 villages out of the three talukas of Humnabad, Bhalki and Santpur (Aurad), the total number of villages of these 3 talukas comes to 451. This means that they roughly claim one full taluka. If that much area was to be reduced, the remaining area would amount to three talukas instead of four. If so, it would have been impossible for 3 talukas only to claim the status of a separate district. On the other hand, the Marathi area carved out from the old Bidar District would amount to four talukas instead of three. Hence the very claim of the status of a District for only three talukas, in preference to four talukas being allotted to Marathawada, would have looked illogical and unfair. It is just possible that members of Marathawada might have thought it fit not to press their claim for a few villages in three talukas of Bidar District lest that claim may come in the way of the latter retaining its position and status of a District. It might also be that they were well aware that if claims for a few villages in a taluka were made, that claim would not be accepted by the other members. The Central Government also would not agree to such a claim as it involved transfer on the basis of villages. Knowing these as the weaknesses of their demand, they must have thought that discretion was a better part and thus agreed to the transfer of the entire four talukas to Mysore. Having gained one step by a common agreement and thus made their position secure they now turn round and advance these smaller claims on the basis of villages. But in fact the proposal of giving the status of a District for four talukas has been found proper and reasonable in the eyes of the parties and has been not only accepted by the Hyderabad Assembly but also by the Central Government and by the Parliament. The stand now taken that they did not agree to the 146 villages being included in the District of Bidar is something which cannot be accepted."

3.31. I am in full agreement with this view. It seems to me that if the Marathawada members of Parliament raised this question of the villages in Parliament, the Kannada members would have objected to it, because to allow this claim would amount to give to

Maharashtra four talukas instead of three out of Bidar District and reduce the four given to Kannada to three. This would have seriously jeopardised the agreed trifurcation of the Bidar District. Maharashtra cannot now claim four talukas of Bidar against three allotted to it. The 146 villages claimed amount actually to a taluka.

3.32. Apart from the unanimous decision which should be respected, on administrative grounds, these four talukas in their entirety should be included in Mysore in order to give Bidar the status of a district which status it had enjoyed for a long time. The old District of Bidar was comprised of nine talukas and was an important city in the erstwhile Hyderabad State. To deprive the city of Bidar of this status would not have been a correct decision because of Marathi speakers majority in a few villages. I hold that the demand of the State of Maharashtra cannot be allowed merely on principle of linguistic homogeneity.

3.33. I have carefully scrutinised the linguistic complexion of the villages claimed. This complexion has changed from Marathi to Kannada in several of them. The total population of Humnabad taluka of the villages claimed comes to 21,393 out of which 13,630 are the Marathi speakers and the rest are the speakers of other languages. These 8,000 people have been enjoying happily the privileges in the unilingual State of Mysore. They will lose all these privileges if they are transferred to Maharashtra. The wishes of a substantial minority have also to be given due weight. It is much better to provide full linguistic privileges to about 14,000 Marathi-speaking people in villages of Humnabad than to deprive 8,000 people of their privileges by transfer to Maharashtra. Similarly, in the taluka of Bhalki, the population of the villages claimed comes to 41,184. Out of these about 27,000 are Marathi speakers and the rest are the speakers of other languages—about 14,000 odd. On similar grounds, as given in the case of Humnabad, I do not recommend that this substantial minority should be transferred to Maharashtra for the benefit of 27,000 Marathi speakers. In Santpur taluka the population of the villages claimed works out to 50,000 odd. The Marathi speakers are about 24,000, below 50 per cent and on similar grounds, I would not recommend the transfer of a substantial minority who are opposed to such transfer to Maharashtra. Taking an overall view of these areas, the population is 60 per cent Marathi and 40 per cent others. The minority is substantial and their wishes have to be respected. They are against merger. I would, however, recommend that these areas should be made bilingual and the Marathi speakers should be provided with same privileges as they would get by being included in the unilingual State of Maharashtra so that they may not suffer any hardships. The integrity of the district should be maintained and should not be broken up.

3.34. The wishes of the people, as evidenced by the 1967 elections, are a pointer against the demand of the Maharashtra State. In the earlier elections of 1957 and 1962, the candidates of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti won the elections with heavy majorities not only in the Assembly and Parliament but also in the various Village Panchayats and Development Boards, but in 1967 elections not a single candidate of the Samiti succeeded. All were

defeated. Quite a number of Marathi-speaking persons from these Marathi majority areas and a number of Panchayat Sarpanches interviewed the Commission and requested for maintaining *status quo*. However, most of the Marathi speakers of these villages and Panchayats expressed a wish to be merged in Maharashtra. In the vitiated atmosphere of linguistic emotion, this was bound to be so. The existing facilities of communication between the claimed villages and the Taluka and the District headquarters and the absence of such facilities with Maharashtra talukas is a matter that also supports the Commission's view. Advantage of facility of communication is an important consideration in boundary disputes.

3.35. Most of the villages claimed by Maharashtra State in Bhalki taluka have trade relations with Bhalki and the residents of the disputed villages of Bhalki were not prepared for the transfer of their villages to Maharashtra if the town of Bhalki was not transferred to it. The economic relation of these villages is with the town of Bhalki.

3.36. It may be mentioned that the State of Bombay in its original claim did not demand the transfer of Bhalki to Maharashtra. In the statement presented to this Commission, the State of Maharashtra said that the composition of Bhalki (urban) is Kannada 39 per cent and Marathi 25 per cent whereas that of Bhalki (rural) is Marathi 75 per cent and Kannada 23 per cent. Bhalki (rural) consists of about 12 'wadis' around Bhalki. As these 'wadis' have a high percentage of Marathi population, the people feel that these 'wadis' along with Bhalki (urban) should be transferred to Maharashtra notwithstanding the fact that the latter has a Kannada majority because Bhalki (urban) is an island among the Marathi 'wadis'.

3.37. I am afraid, I cannot accept this contention. These 'wadis' have very small populations of working class people, who have settled there for the benefit of the urban area.

3.38. The result, therefore, is that the claim of the State of Maharashtra about the villages claimed in the three talukas of Humnabad, Bhalki and Santpur (Aurad) is not allowed and it is recommended that the *status quo* be maintained.

CHAPTER IV

DISTRICT GULBARGA

In Aland taluka of Gulbarga District eight villages were claimed with a population of 4,978, Marathi-speaking being 68 per cent. According to the Census figures of the Hyderabad State, in Aland taluka Telugu is 1 per cent, Marathi 9 per cent, Kannada 73 per cent and other 17 per cent. Thus, Kannada has an overwhelming majority in this taluka.

4.2. The villages claimed are in the neighbourhood of Aland, the taluka headquarters.

4.3. The State of Maharashtra in their claim reiterated the grounds on which the Bombay Government had demanded merger of these areas in Maharashtra. The claim was resisted by the State of Mysore. I have in Annexure V, Volume II, given the views of the people interviewed by me at Gulbarga, both for or against the merger.

4.4. The impression that I gained during these interviews was that even the Marathi-speaking people of these villages and the Panchayats wished to stay in Karnatak. Alanga village people and Gadlegaon village people came to me and urged for the maintenance of *status quo*. One or two Village Panchayats requested for merger in Maharashtra.

4.5. The total population of these eight villages is 4,978. In Jamga Khandala village 49 per cent are Marathi speakers while in Jawalgi they are 48 per cent. Six villages have absolute Marathi majority. Out of the total population about 1,700 are non-Marathi speakers.

4.6. According to Commission's views given in Chapter III, Part I, of this Report, neither the area nor the population is a sizable one and, therefore, the Commission cannot recommend the transfer of these few villages from the State of Mysore to the State of Maharashtra. These villages are quite close to Aland and have trade relations and communication facilities with Aland. No purpose will be served by transferring these areas to Maharashtra. Most of them seem to be quite happy in Mysore. From administrative point of view, the claim of Maharashtra has to be disallowed.

CHAPTER V

DISTRICT KOLHAPUR

Chandgad Taluka

The States Reorganisation Commission taking into consideration the gravity of the language complexion in the taluka of Chandgad recommended the transfer of the whole of the taluka from the District of Belgaum to the State of Maharashtra. It remarked that it will be quite convenient for the State of Maharashtra to administer this taluka and that the State of Mysore should have no objection to this.

5.2. During the last ten years this taluka as included in the State of Maharashtra is being administered by that State. It is included in the District of Kolhapur.

5.3. The State of Mysore for the first time in its memorandum submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967, laid claim to this area on the ground of economic considerations and facility of communications. It said that the people of Chandgad taluka for purposes of their business, daily requirements, trade, education, etc. have to come to Belgaum. For litigation purposes they have to go to Kolhapur which is about 96 miles from the taluka. For their medical requirements, etc. they have also to come to Belgaum.

5.4. The State of Mysore on its own initiative has tried to advocate the cause of these people and has mentioned the hardships and inconveniences they are suffering at the moment. It is significant that of the large population of this taluka only a handful have come to the Commission asking it to review the decision of the S.R. Commission. If the people of the taluka had any complaints to make because of their having been allotted to the State of Maharashtra, nothing stood in their way to meet the Commission which was sitting quite near to that taluka. It is only the State of Mysore out of the goodness of its heart is feeling for their sufferings and wants to include it in the State of Mysore for the sake of their happiness.

5.5. Shri Nambiar who argued the case for the State on 10th June, 1967, at Ooty, was asked by me whether there was any evidence from the people of those areas in support of the contention of the State of Mysore. He could not refer to any except the statement of a solitary witness recorded at Kolhapur.

5.6. It may be mentioned that the percentage of Marathi speakers in the taluka has gone up by another two per cent and the taluka is predominantly Marathi-speaking area and is contiguous to the district of Kolhapur. I have, therefore, no hesitation in disallowing this belated additional claim of the State of Mysore, for which there is no foundation whatsoever.

CHAPTER VI

DISTRICT SHOLAPUR

North Sholapur

The State of Mysore for the first time laid claim to the taluka of North Sholapur, in its statement presented to the Commission on 31st March, 1967. It said that there was only one Sholapur Taluka with 123 villages at the beginning of the British administration and that about 20 years ago when the question of linguistic provinces was benig seriously considered, the taluka was divided into two unequal parts. North Sholapur was comprised of 44 villages while South Sholapur was comprised of 80 villages. The headquarters of both these were in the city of Sholapur. The division was effected in order to include all the Kannada-speaking areas in South Sholapur and the Marathi-speaking villages together with the city in North Sholapur. It was alleged that this was deliberately done so that when the linguistic States were formed, it would be easy to allocate South Sholapur to Karnatak and retain Sholapur city as a part of the Marathi portion of North Sholapur Taluka.

6.2. According to the case of the Government of Mysore, there should not be breaking up of a taluka under any circumstances. It was proposed that the Sholapur Taluka prior to division be taken as one unit, the recent partition which was purposefully made to defeat the possible claims of Kannada people to that taluka be ignored and all the 123 villages be transferred to the State of Mysore.

6.3. The State of Maharashtra in its reply stated that the statement made regarding the division of Sholapur taluka into Sholapur North and Sholapur South is factually incorrect. The division of Sholapur taluka into North Sholapur and South Sholapur took place in 1944, 23 years ago and not recently, and that North Sholapur was never Kannada in character.

6.4. The memoranda and the evidence received by the Commission about this taluka have been summarised in Annexure VII, Volume II, dealing with Sholapur city. North Sholapur taluka as appears from the Census slips is predominantly Maharash'rian. The Kannada speakers' percentage except in one village does not go beyond 36. In the rest of the villages it is insignificant. The sum total is that in 44 villages Kannada speakers comprise 6·5 per cent of the total population.

6.5. Shri Nambiar arguing the case for the State of Mysore after stating the grounds given in the memorandum of the State had eventually to concede that he could not seriously press the case of inclusion of North Sholapur taluka into Karnatak. I have, therefore, no hesitation in disallowing the claim of the State of Mysore for the taluka of North Sholapur.

SHOLAPUR CITY

6.6. The two Mysorean members on the Four-Man Boundary Committee in their report submitted to the State Government in 1962 said as follows :

> "Sholapur city has no Marathi-speaking majority. Their percentage is hardly 38·8 while that of the people speaking other language is 48·8. The major portion of such people are Telugu-speaking who have come to Sholapur for service in the mills. If the principle of kinship of language is applied, relied upon by Maharashtra elsewhere, here Telugu will have greater affinity with Kannada than with Marathi as both the former languages come from the same family of languages, *viz.*, Dravidian. If people speaking these two languages are added together they will form a clear majority in Sholapur city. In this state of affairs it appears possible that Sholapur city may as well be linked to South Sholapur as to the North Sholapur Taluk."

6.7. It is clear from the above statement that these two members did not positively at that sage lay any claim to the city of Sholapur for its inclusion in Mysore. They conjectured that if Telugu speakers joined the Kannada speakers then it may be possible to claim the city for the State of Mysore.

6.8. In the statement presented to this Commission by the State of Mysore it was contended that formerly Sholapur was called Sonnalige or Sonnalapur, a name found in Kannada literary works and that the name Sonnalige is associated with the name of their great saint Sonnalige Siddharameshwar that Sholapur during the 19th century was unmistakably accepted to be a part of Karnatak (*vide* 1884 Gazette). Dr. Khare, the Director, Bharatha Ithihasa Samshodhaka Mandal, Poona, who had made a special study of 2,000 documents from the Kannada family of Deshmukh of Sholapur had expressed the opinion that all this territory was Kannada at one time.

6.9. The memorandum added that the judicial administration of Sholapur was connected with the Kannada area of Bijapur district. Reference was also made to the existence of Kannada inscriptions in Sholapur and in the villages roundabout the town. It was contended that the cotton mills in Sholapur depended upon the cotton grown in the Districts of Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Raichur and Gulbarga and that the cotton industry will have much better prospect of growth and development if Sholapur was transferred to Mysore State. For foodgains and milk supply also, Sholapur city depends mainly on the Kannada areas surrounding it and on the Districts of Bijapur and Gulbarga.

6.10. The city has since a century trade relations with Karnatak.

6.11. Reliance was placed on "The History of Sholapur City" by Rao Sahib V. N. Jakkal. Therein it was mentioned that till very recently 85 per cent of Sholapur population was speaking Kannada

language, and that the accounts were kept in Kannada by the merchants of Sholapur. It is astonishing how such an absolute Kannada city has changed its linguistic composition to such a great extent. There has been a superimposition of the Marathi language on the substrata of Kannada whose sphere of activity has receded to the realms of domestic talk.

6.12. Besides the historical background which shows that Sholapur was formerly a Kannada area, there are existing to this day several cultural and social links of Sholapur city with the Kannada areas. The most ancient temple in the city of Sholapur is the Siddeswara temple. In "The History of Sholapur City" by V. N. Jakkal, it is styled as 'Grama-Daivata' or the principal diety of the city. The temple is dedicated to Sonnalige Siddarameshwara, a saint who was contemporary of Basava in the 12th century. He had built a big lake for the use of the people of the town and in the midst of that lake this temple had been constructed. Siddharameshwara also built 17 other temples in the town and maintained charitable food distributing centres. Sholapur has come to be known as 'Dakshina Varanasi' and 'Abhinava Shrishaila'. In the "Centenary Volume of Sholapur Municipality" it is mentioned that one of the most important works of utility done by Siddeshawara is the Siddheswar Tank dug and built by him with the help of his numerous Shishyas.

6.13. People of all castes and communities happen to be devotees of this Siddheshwara temple. Every year a fair is held in honour of this deity and lakhs of devotees, particularly from the Kannada areas, assemble. This provides an annual meeting ground and establishes a regular link between the people of Karnatak and those of Sholapur.

6.14. Sholapur is also noted as a place of many other saints and sadhus. The Math of one sadhu is in Kasaba area of Sholapur. There is a Chariot which is drawn twice a year when there is a huge gathering coming mainly from the Kannada areas.

6.15. In Sholapur, the Lingayats have all along been a predominant trading community. In the rural area they are a predominant agricultural class.

6.16. Like every other city, the city of Sholapur is a cosmopolitan one. Despite its being linked up with a large portion of Marathi area as the headquarters of that district and in spite of its official influence, and the Marathi officers' dominance, Marathi has not made serious inroads on the linguistic complexion of the city. According to the 1951 Census the population of Sholapur city was 2,76,510 of which 1,07,253 were Marathi-speaking and 35,643 Kannada-speaking. The percentage of the former comes to 38·8 while that of the latter to nearly 13. This leaves 48 per cent of the population, which consists mostly of Telugu-speaking and Urdu-speaking people. The Urdu-speaking people who are mostly Muslims are conversant with Kannada and they are in favour of transfer of the city to Mysore State. Similarly, the Telugu-speaking people are also conversant with Kannada and are pro-Karnatak, and it can

be safely said that the linguistic gravity of the town is in favour of Karnatak.

6.17. In the Municipality there have been all along several Kannada representatives ever since its inception in 1852. Many of the Presidents of the Municipality since then have been Kannada people. Even in the present Municipal Corporation of Sholapur, out of the 59 members who are elected, 27 are Kannada-speaking and 12 are Marathi-speaking. The remaining 20 members speak other languages. All this goes to show the continued predominance of Kannada in the city of Sholapur.

6.18. The State of Maharashtra contested this claim. It was contended that no evidence had been adduced to support the contention that Telugu-speaking and Urdu-speaking people were in favour of transfer of Sholapur city to Mysore State. Census figures do not show the preponderance of Kannada-speaking people at any period of time. On the contrary it appears that there has been a preponderance of Marathi-speaking people in the city since 1881, if not earlier.

6.19. Out of the 40 Presidents of the Municipality since its life of 115 years, only 9 were 'Lingayats, and the total period of their regime was 12 years. Among the 59 existing Corporators of the Sholapur Municipal Corporation, only 8 are Lingayats and most of the remaining are those whose mother tongue is Marathi or who have adopted Marathi for all day-to-day activities outside their home. The Government of Mysore have not thus made out any case for transferring the city of Sholapur to Mysore.

6.20. It may be added that the people of Sholapur have expressed their desire to remain in Maharashtra. The Sholapur Municipality passed a resolution by a majority of 52 to 2 (two remaining neutral) on 14th August, 1954 for retention of the city in Maharashtra. Another resolution was passed on 19th April, 1961. The latest resolution passed unanimously on 4th May, 1967, stated that the Mysore Government's claim to Sholapur city is wrong and irrational and is not supported by any fact.

6.21. A large number of representations have been received regarding the city of Sholapur. These are given in Appendix VII, Volume II.

6.22. Shri Nambiar while arguing the case for the State of Mysore drew the attention of the Commission to all the matters mentioned in the memorandum.

6.23. After considering the material placed before me, I have no hesitation in disallowing the claim of the State of Mysore for inclusion of the city of Sholapur in that State. The percentage of Kannada-speaking people in the city has never gone beyond 12·8 or 12·9 of the total population. It was contended that the Urdu and the Telugu speakers were pro-Kannada and wanted merger of the city in Mysore. During my sittings in Sholapur not a single Telugu-

speaking person came forward to support this claim. On the other hand, their reaction was adverse to this demand. So far as Urdu-speaking people were concerned, a few Muslims supported the claim but the larger number of them were against it. The linguistic complexion of the city is cosmopolitan. It has no Kannada complexion. On the other hand, the Marathi speakers form a substantial population of the city. According to my charter I cannot ignore the linguistic considerations and cannot hand over the city from one State to another merely on the basis of historical background or according to the number of temples, etc., therein. When Shri Nambiar was asked by me whether he could produce any of the Telgu speakers to support the claim of the State of Mysore, he was unable to do so. The claim, therefore, to the city is disallowed. The impression I got from the large number of persons I interviewed was that public opinion was opposed to the claim made by the State of Mysore. Those who supported the claim did not produce any impression on me.

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PART III

CHAPTER I

AREAS OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA FOR TRANSFER TO THE STATE OF MYSORE

The Bombay Government in para 14 of its memorandum submitted to the Government of India in 1957 for readjustment of boundaries between Bombay and Mysore States stated as follows:

> "In the Akkalkot, South Sholapur and Mangalwedha talukas of Sholapur district, in Jath taluka of South Satara district and in Shirol and Gadhinglaj talukas of Kolhapur district there are compact areas wherein there is a preponderance of the Kannada-speaking people as against the Marathi-speaking people. .... As in the case of Belgaum areas, here also the Bombay Government would suggest that the demarcation between the Bombay and Mysore States should be reviewed and the boundaries adjusted so as to transfer to the Mysore State contiguous Kannada-speaking areas."

1.2. In Appendix 'E' annexed to this memorandum the number of towns and villages, their total population, linguistic percentages of the areas suggested to be joined to Mysore State, etc., are given :

Sholapur district :	South Sholapur taluka	65 villages	Population 74,679 Kannada-speaking 57%
	Mangalwedha taluka	9 villages	Population 8,479 Kannada-speaking 62%
	Akkalkot taluka	99 villages	Population 106,403 Kannada-speaking 68%
South Satara district :	Jath taluka	44 villages	Population 51,863 Kannada-speaking 72%
Kolhapur district	Shirol taluka	19 villages	Population 46,807 Kannada-speaking 52%
	Gadhinglaj taluka	24 villages	Population 37,029 Kannada-speaking 67%.
	TOTAL	260 villages	Population 3,25,260.

1.3. The Mysore State in its reply to para 14 impliedly accepted the offer but suggested other additional areas for transfer from Bombay State to the State of Mysore.

1.4. In the memorandum submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967, the State of Maharashtra, while dealing with the Kannada majority areas in Maharashtra State in para 6·157 stated:

> "The Government of Maharashtra would have no objection to the boundary being readjusted in these areas on the principles propounded by them in this memorandum provided those principles are equally applied in readjusting the boundary in the areas claimed by the Government of Maharashtra."

1.5. The Mysore Government in its statement presented to this Commission on 31st March, 1967, in para 261 stated as follows:

> "We should note here that according to the Government of Maharashtra there are within their State, 260 villages which are admittedly Kannada. This clear averment further implies that they are prepared to have them transferred to the State of Mysore. As this is a matter of admission, the Government of Mysore need not dilate or discuss anything about the merits of these areas, but they do claim them and are prepared and willing to take all such areas which are offered by Maharashtra."

1.6. The Government of Mysore made additional claims to other areas of Maharashtra for being included in Mysore. These have been considered in separate chapters. However, in its rejoinder in respect of these additional claims, the State of Maharashtra in para 2.3 of its memorandum submitted to this Commission on 22nd May, 1967, stated as follows:

> "The 260 villages having relative majority of Kannada-speaking population according to the Census of 1951 which the Government of Bombay had offered to transfer to the State of Mysore formed part of different talukas of different districts as follows:—

District	Taluka	No. of villages
Sholapur	South Sholapur	65
	Mangalwedha	9
	Akkalkot	99
South Satara (now Sangli)	Jath	44
Kolhapur	Shirol	19
	Gadhinglaj	24
	TOTAL	260

It will be seen from this that in the Mangalwedha Taluka of Sholapur District and in the Shirol and Gadhinglaj Talukas of Kolhapur District, the Government of Mysore

have no additional claims to make and that the additional claims pertain to the whole of North Sholapur Taluka including the Sholapur City, the remaining 15 villages of South Sholapur Taluka, the remaining 25 villages of Akkalkot Taluka, the remaining 54 villages of Jath Taluka and the whole of Chandgad Taluka."

1.7. From what has been stated above, no dispute was raised between the two Governments about the villages offered by the Government of Bombay for transfer to Mysore State in 1957. The offer made was never withdrawn by the Government of the State of Maharashtra and it was in unambiguous terms accepted by the State of Mysore. (On 9th June, 1967, in respect of a certain number of villages in view of the Census of 1961, the offer made was withdrawn).

1.8. It was contended by Shri Nambiar appearing for the State of Mysore that as no dispute existed between the two Governments about these areas, the Commission had no jurisdiction to make its recommendations about them but should only note this fact in the report and leave it to Parliament to give effect to the agreed solution about these villages.

1.9. The argument is plausible but in view of the contention raised by the counsel for Maharashtra that the offer was made provided the principles on which it was based were accepted by the State of Mysore—that State never agreed to abide by the village unit formula advanced by the State of Maharashtra—certainly a dispute exists between the two States as to on what basis the border was to be adjusted. Moreover, in political matters and in matters of adjustments of borders between the States the rules of the law of contract about acceptance and offer and in respect of a completed contract between parties can hardly be made applicable. The Commission, therefore, has made its recommendations on the principles enunciated by it about these offered villages. In its view the acceptance was not in terms of the offer and it is not a mere matter of agreement between the two States. The ultimate decision of making adjustments between the two States rests with the Parliament and it is not bound to decide this matter in accordance with the agreement of States if it finds that it is not in the well being of the population concerned.

1.10. I have adopted a middle course in making my recommendations. I have neither accepted the Pataskar Formula in its entirety nor the district or the taluka unit formula with 70 per cent linguistic majority. I have held that before any areas are recommended for transfer from one State to the other, the area concerned should be a sizable one, say about 20,000 population, and the percentage of the linguistic group should be stable. In the light of these principles my recommendations in regard to the offered areas are being made.

1.11. During the enquiry a point was also made by some people that the offer made by the Bombay Government is not binding on the people of the villages offered as it was made without consulting their wishes. I see no force in this contention, as the Government is presumed to act on behalf of the people which have voted it to power.

CHAPTER II

SOUTH SHOLAPUR TALUKA

The Bombay State in its memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, in 1957 offered 65 Kannada majority villages in the taluka of South Sholapur for transfer to the State of Mysore. It was said that the percentage of Kannada-speaking people in these villages was 57 and their total population was 74,679.

2.2. In its statement submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967, the Government of Mysore expressed its willingness to take all such areas which were offered by the State of Maharashtra. It, however, laid claim to the whole of this taluka on the ground that it was a predominantly Kannada area. There was no justification to retain the remaining 15 villages in Maharashtra. In 20 villages Marathi-speaking population was more than 50 per cent, 8 out of these form a pocket inside the Kannada-speaking area. It thus cannot claim to retain more than 12 villages. But even this claim would not be admissible as that would mean splitting up of a taluka.

2.3. The State of Maharashtra in their reply submitted to this Commission on 22nd May, 1967, met this argument as follows:

> "It is contended by them that 8 villages form pockets inside the Kannada-speaking villages, and that on their own showing the Maharashtra Government cannot claim anything more than 12 villages. In the opinion of the Mysore Government the Maharashtra Government are not entitled to claim even these 12 villages as that would mean splitting up of the taluka. The Government of Maharashtra had made it amply clear that the fresh line of demarcation suggested by them was based on the village as unit, and relative majority as between Kannada and Marathi in each village according to the 1951 Census. Consequently, the percentage of the Kannada-speaking and the Marathi-speaking populations in the whole taluka of South Sholapur was not relevant for determining the number of villages to be transferred to Mysore. The Maharashtra Government have not proposed to retain 8 Marathi majority villages which form pockets within the Kannada majority villages. Besides those 8 villages, there are 15 villages in South Sholapur Taluka which had a relative majority of Marathi-speaking population and which were contiguous to the Marathi majority area of the State, and, therefore, it was proposed to retain them in Maharashtra."

2.4. A look at the Language Hand-Book plan prepared in 1955, according to Census figures of 1951, shows that the 15 villages which the Government of Maharashtra wishes to retain in the taluka of

South Sholapur are in two areas and are contiguous to the Mohol Taluka. The pocket villages are not included within these 15. The claim of the Government of Mysore to these 15 villages is based only on the ground that the taluka should not be split up. I have already held in earlier parts of this report that neither the taluka unit nor the village unit furnishes a safe guide for solution of border problems. A broad view has to be taken of the size and population of the area and its contiguity with the unilingual State. I see no force in the contention of the State of Mysore for claiming these 15 villages also. They were rightly retained in the State of Maharashtra.

2.5. On 9th June, 1967, a day before the final round of arguments started at Ooty, the State of Maharashtra put in a petition withdrawing six villages out of 65 offered previously and maintaining the offer regarding 59. The six villages sought to ge withdrawn from the original offer are Kadalgaon, Kusur, Khanapur, Telgaon, Mandrup and Bhandar-Kavathe. The withdrawal was necessitated because of the change of complexion of these villages in the Census of 1961. The speakers of Marathi language in these villages improved to 55·9 per cent from 27·0 per cent, 70·9 per cent from 14·1 per cent, 91·5 per cent from zero per cent, 53·5 per cent from 5·0 per cent, 37·6 per cent from 29·5 per cent and 54·2 per cent from 13·2 per cent. The high percentage of Kannada speakers in 1951 was reduced in 1961 to 32·8 per cent from 61·8 per cent, 23·3 per cent from 76·6 per cent, 0·8 per cent from 100 per cent, 38·7 per cent from 84·3 per cent, 36·0 per cent from 44·3 per cent, 37·0 per cent from 76·5 per cent.

2.6. This change of complexion of these few villages in the case of two is not of any great consequence. In two villages, however, the change is so glaring that it is difficult to base any conclusion on it. No evidence has been led about the cause of this abnormal change. Population of Khanapur was 60 in 1951 and it became 130 in 1961, it was 100 per cent Kannada in 1951 and it has been reduced to 0·8 per cent in 1961. No satisfactory explanation is available for this change. Population of Kusur has gone up from 1,019 to 1,200 and yet the Kannada majority of 76·6 per cent has been reduced to 23·3 per cent.

2.7. The total population of these six villages is 15,728 according to the 1961 Census, out of which 8,200 are Marathi-speaking. The rest are speakers of other languages. The majority gained by Marathi speakers in these six villages, however, is slight and there is no satisfactory explanation of extraordinary changes in the two villages. I see no justification for this belated withdrawal from the original offer by the State Government of Maharashtra who have been throughout the enquiry urging me to decide this dispute according to Census figures of 1951. Complexion of villages will continue changing now and then but despite change of complexion of some villages, unless the complexion of the whole area changes no effect should be given to such small changes.

2.8. A look at the plan annexed to the Census of 1961 shows that one of these villages is merely a pocket in the predominantly Kannada area. In the Commission's opinion this matter should be

decided on the basis of the plan prepared in the Language Hand-Book of 1955, rather than on the basis of the plan prepared in the 1961 Census. It is, therefore, recommended that 65 villages mentioned in the annexed list be transferred from the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore in the taluka of South Sholapur. The total population affected is 88,839 out of which Kannada-speaking is 45,769 being a percentage of 51.4. This percentage has been reduced to this figure because of the change in complexion in some villages in 1961. The Commission's recommendation is in accordance with the principles enunciated by it. The area covered by these villages is a compact sizable area with a substantial population and is contiguous to the boundary of the State of Mysore. Even if the offer was withdrawn as a whole on the merits of the case the Commission would have no hesitation in making this recommendation.

List of sixty-five villages in South Sholapur Taluka recommended for transfer to the State of Mysore

S. No.	Name of the village	Population (absolute)				Percentages		
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Others	Kannada	Marathi	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Sangdari	928	637	204	87	68·7	22·0	9·3
2.	Dargahalli	1,449	1,018	339	92	70·3	23·4	6·3
3.	Dhotri	2,231	1,159	683	389	52·0	30·6	17·4
4.	Kardehalli	1,317	14	1,262	41	1·1	95·8	3·1
5.	Shirpanhalli	322	168	139	15	52·2	43·2	4·6
6.	Rampur	1,220	401	527	292	32·9	43·2	23·9
7.	Wadgaon	720	483	195	42	67·1	27·1	5·8
8.	Togarhalli	632	212	355	65	33·5	56·2	10·3
9.	Yatnal	908	735	83	90	81·0	9·1	9·9
10.	Kumbhari	4,978	3,357	812	809	67·4	16·3	16·3
11.	Gurdehalli	185	179	5	1	96·8	2·7	0·5
12.	Hanamgaon	775	214	184	377	27·6	23·6	48·7
13.	Dindore	805	614	143	48	76·3	17·7	6·0
14.	Chincholi	1,418	801	255	362	56·5	18·0	25·5

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Tirth	1,082	703	221	158	65·0	20·4	14·6
16.	Valsang	4,740	2,577	1,056	1,107	54·4	22·3	23·3
17.	Honmurgi	1,033	633	80	320	61·3	7·7	31·0
18.	Achegaon	2,365	1,086	871	408	45·9	36·8	17·3
19.	Shindgaon	1,643	832	681	130	50·6	41·4	8·0
20.	Auj-Aherwadi	672	239	359	74	35·6	53·4	11·0
21.	Shindkhed	1,235	940	124	171	76·1	10·1	13·8
22.	Hipale	276	56	191	29	20·3	69·2	10·5
23.	Rajur	336	306	22	8	91·1	6·5	2·4
24.	Tillehal	646	8	537	101	1·2	83·1	15·7
25.	Aherwadi	2,528	1,420	503	605	56·2	19·9	23·9
26.	Alegaon	372	16	288	68	4·3	77·4	18·3
27.	Bankalgi	1,306	651	535	120	49·8	41·0	9·2
28.	Hotgi	6,589	2,397	1,918	2,274	36·4	29·1	34·5
29.	Borul	403	235	86	82	58·3	21·3	20·4
30.	Savantkhed	124	6	28	90	4·8	22·6	72·6
31.	Aurad	2,449	1,237	645	567	50·5	26·4	23·1
32.	Madre	893	159	461	273	17·8	51·6	30·6
33.	Sanjwad	571	482	13	76	84·4	2·3	13·1

34. Hattur	2,862	1,395	482	985	48·7	16·8	34·5
35. Kanbas	1,222	1,050	145	27	85·9	11·9	2·2
36. Chandrahal	21	7	1	13	33·3	4·8	61·9
37. Ingalgi	1,211	638	380	193	52·7	31·3	16·0
38. Vadakbal	756	265	217	274	35·0	28·7	36·3
39. Shirval	1,180	930	56	194	78·8	4·8	16·4
40. Vinchur	2,213	1,128	996	89	51·0	45·0	4·0
41. Birul	178	70	..	108	39·3	..	60·7
42. Yelegaon	732	384	212	136	52·5	28·9	18·6
43. Wangi	1,359	531	439	389	39·9	32·3	28·7
44. Nimbargi	2,372	1,419	602	351	59·8	25·4	14·8
45. Mandrup	6,268	2,259	2,354	1,655	36·0	37·6	26·4
46. Balgi	392	300	47	45	76·5	12·0	11·5
47. Sadepur	617	319	213	85	51·7	34·5	13·8
48. Malkavathe	1,614	942	357	315	58·4	22·1	19·5
49. Nandani	800	448	247	105	56·0	30·8	13·1
50. Bandalgi	14	6	..	8	42·9	..	57·1
51. Lavangi	779	674	23	82	86·5	3·0	10·5
52. Kurghot	581	355	74	152	61·1	12·7	26·2
53. Barur	1,444	829	128	487	57·4	8·9	33·7
54. Bokkwathe	752	648	7	97	86·2	0·9	12·9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
55.	Karkal	792	668	97	27	84·3	12·3	3·4
56.	Takali	1,348	1,162	52	134	86·2	3·9	9·9
57.	Anj-Mandrup	1,376	960	54	362	69·3	3·9	26·9
58.	Chinchpur	323	314	1	8	97·2	0·3	2·5
59.	Hattarsang	746	710	5	31	95·2	0·7	4·1
60.	Kudal	276	191	..	85	69·2	..	30·8
61.	Kandalgaon	2,972	976	1,661	335	32·8	55·9	11·3
62.	Kusur	1,200	279	851	70	23·3	70·9	5·8
63.	Khamapur	130	1	119	10	0·8	91·5	7·7
64.	Telegaon	1,153	446	617	90	38·7	53·5	7·8
65.	Bhandar Kavathe	4,005	1,480	2,171	354	37·0	54·2	8·8
	TOTAL . .	88,839	45,769	26,413	16,657	51·4	29·8	18·8

CHAPTER III

MANGALWEDHA TALUKA

Six out of the 9 villages offered here have absolute Kannada majority and two have relative majority. One of them has now absolute Marathi majority of 81%. Kannada speakers population comes to about 6,000, slightly over 50% of the total population. The area offered to be transferred does not fulfil the tests I have laid down to be followed in making boundary adjustment. Out of these villages, two are in one pocket and four are on one side in another area. Two villages are contiguous to Sangli district and four villages are contiguous to South Sholapur and Bijapur district.

3.2. The result is that in regard to these villages, despite the offer, I cannot recommend their transfer to the State of Mysore. The offer was withdrawn about one village. Shri Nambiar argued that the villages regarding which offer was not withdrawn I have no jurisdiction to decline recommending their transfer. I do not feel bound by the offer when I find that this offer is not in accordance with the tests laid down by me. I, therefore, do not recommend transfer of any Kannada majority village from Maharastra to Mysore in this taluka.

CHAPTER IV

AKKALKOT TALUKA

Akkalkot was a princely State and was merged in the Sholapur district of the State of Maharashtra. The State of Maharashtra offered to transfer 99 villages of this taluka with a population of 1,06,403, 68 per cent Kannada-speaking, to the State of Mysore. It wished to retain 25 villages with a population of 43,035, wherein the Marathi majority was not absolute but was 48 per cent, Kannada being 24 per cent.

4.2. This offer was maintained in the memorandum submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967.

4.3. The two Mysorean members on the Four-Man Boundary Committee were of the opinion that the whole of the taluka of Akkalkot should be made a part of the State of Mysore. In the statement of the case submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967, by the State of Mysore, the claim was made to the whole of this taluka as in its complexion the area was predominantly Kannada.

4.4. Akkalkot lies to the south-east of Sholapur taluka. It was a princely State ruled over by Marathi Chiefs. To the south of this taluka, lie the areas of Indi taluka of Bijapur district while to its east and south lie the Kannada talukas of Aland and Afzalpur of Gulbarga district of Mysore State. To the west of Akkalkot is the South Sholapur taluka which is also admittedly a Kannada area. To the north lies Tuljapur taluka major part of which is also Kannada. Thus, the taluka is bounded on all its three sides by pure Kannada areas.

4.5. According to the Census of 1951 Kannada speaking population of the rural area was 59·8 per cent while Marathi was 22·4 per cent. Twelve villages in this taluka have a Marathi speaking majority. Almost all the rest have Kannada majority with few exceptions where neither Marathi nor Kannada is more than 50 per cent.

4.6. When the State of Akkalkot was merged in the Union of India in 1948-49, 101 villages of Akkalkot State formed the nucleus of the present Akkalkot taluka. Fifteen villages from Kurundwad State and 5 villages from South Sholapur taluka were added to it and the present Akkalkot taluka was formed comprising 121 villages.

4.7. In view of the clear admission of the Government of Maharashtra that 99 villages are Kannada, they may be transferred to Mysore. The only point for consideration is whether there are any grounds to justify the retention of 25 villages, including the town

of Akkalkot in the State of Maharashtra. Akkalkot town has 44 per cent Marathi speaking population. It is hemmed in all sides except the north by Kannada speaking areas. Even on the north-west and on the north-east there are Kannada majority villages.

4.8. The Marathi population in this town is not absolute. It is 44 per cent. The complexion of the town has to be considered along with the languages spoken in the villages in the neighbourhood and in the sphere of influence of the town. Adjoining the limits of Akkalkot town on the three sides, *viz.*, east, south and west, there are eleven villages, *viz.*, Kolibet, Mahamudabad, Nimbgaon, Goudgaon (Kh), Rampur, Itage, Negenhalli, Matanhalli, Dodyal, Bagelhalli and Konhalli, all of which are Kannada villages. But in the case of four villages the Government of Maharashtra claims that they are Marathi on the technical ground that the percentage of Marathi speaking people (though less than 50 per cent), is slightly more than that of Kannada speaking people. In Bagelhalli, for instance, the percentage of Marathi speaking is 46·1 while that of Kannada speaking is 44·5. The village is quite adjacent to Kannada area. In Dodyal, Marathi is 44 per cent while Kannada is 36 per cent. In Nagenhalli Marathi is 30·1 per cent while Kannada is 12·8 per cent and those speaking other languages are 57·1 per cent. The village Itage is also claimed by the Government of Maharashtra though the Marathi there is only 21 per cent and Kannada is 45 per cent.

4.9. It is clear that the town of Akkalkot is surrounded on almost all sides by Kannada areas and has essentially a Kannada complexion.

4.10. The taluka of Akkalkot considered from all points of view and particularly owing to its geographical situation has to be kept in one State for its bifurcation will on administrative grounds be unsound.

4.11. The State of Maharashtra in its reply submitted to this Commission on 22nd May, 1967, maintained its stand and wanted to retain the 25 villages in Maharashtra on the basis of 1951 Census. In a later statement it wanted to retain the Akkalkot town and 28 villages but offered to surrender two towns of Maindargi and Dudhani and 93 villages.

4.12. There are two Maharashtra Assembly constituencies, one is Akkalkot covering some villages of Akkalkot taluka only and the second is Akkalkot-South Sholapur constituency for the remaining villages of the Akkalkot taluka and the whole of the South Sholapur taluka. No candidate sponsored by the Kannada Ekikaran Maha Samiti or any other Kannada body contested the elections in 1957, 1962 and 1967. The Village Panchayats of almost all the Maratha villages passed resolutions expressing their desire to continue in Maharashtra State. The municipalities of all the three towns, *viz.*, Akkalkot, Maindargi and Dudhani, passed similar resolutions. The Taluka Panchayat Samiti also passed a similar resolution.

4.13. The memoranda received by the Commission about this area for and against the views of the States and the evidence taken by the Commission are given in Annexure IX, Volume II.

4.14. The linguistic complexion of the taluka of Akkalkot as a whole is that in the Census of 1951 Kannada was 59·8 per cent and Marathi 22·4 per cent. In the Census of 1961 Kannada has improved to 60·3 per cent and Marathi has been slightly reduced to 22·2 per cent. In the town of Akkalkot in 1961 the Marathi percentage has gone down to 36·9 per cent and Kannada percentage has gone up to 32·5 per cent.

4.15. On 9th June, 1967 at Ooty, the State of Maharashtra put in an application requesting the Commission that it proposes to retain the three villages originally offered to Mysore, namely, Kiranahalli, Bhuir-Kavathe and Koli-Bet. The population of Koli-Bet from 74 in 1951 has gone up to 104. The Marathi speakers who were 8·1 per cent in 1951 are 42·3 per cent in 1961. Kannada has gone down from 55·4 per cent in 1951 to 32·7 per cent in 1961 while others constitute the rest. There does not seem to be any substantial ground to permit the withdrawal of this small village Goli-Bet from the offer made originally. The percentage of speakers of Marathi language is much below 50 even in 1961 and in 1951 it was only 8·1. In Bhuir-Kavathe the percentage of Marathi has gone up from 42·6 in 1951 to 44·3 in 1961. This is a very marginal change which does not make the village predominantly Marathi-speaking. In Kiranahalli the percentage of Marathi rose by 3 from 1951 and this again is a small gain and is not sufficient to allow the withdrawal of the offer. The Government of Maharashtra on the basis of the 1961 Census offered five more villages to be transferred to Mysore. They are Sultanpur, Kaji Kanbas, Baranpur, Karjal and Naganhalli. This offer was made on the same basis as the withdrawal of the three villages. The result of the new stand of the State of Maharashtra is that 101 villages stand offered by the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore instead of 99 or 95 villages. The remaining villages which the State of Maharashtra wishes to retain are mere pockets in the predominatly Kannada areas.

4.16. A look at the map prepared in 1961 Census about this taluka gives a visual demonstration of the present complexion of this taluka. The taluka as a whole has a very strong Kannada complexion and the few villages which the State of Maharashtra wishes to retain along with the town are mere pockets in this area. There is a small window from which some of these Marathi majority areas can have a look on the boundary of Osmanabad district; but otherwise this taluka is surrounded by the district of Bijapur and the taluka of South Sholapur, a Kannada contiguous area.

4.17. In my judgment, the taluka as a whole has a strong predominance of Kannada speakers and deserved to be transferred from the State Maharashtra to the State of Mysore. The population of the taluka including the three urban areas of Akkalkot, Dudhani and Maindargi in the 1961 Census is 1,75,333 out of which 99,872 are Kannada speakers and 39,525 are Marathi speakers while 27,872 speak Urdu and the rest speak Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati and Banjari. Kannada is 64·9 per cent of the population.

4.18. During its sitting at Akkalkot the Commission interviewed a very large number of persons. It had received a considerable number of memorandum which, as already stated, are given in Annexure IX, Volume II, referred to above. The Rani Saheba of Akkalkot was also pleased to interview the Commission and expressed her desire of maintaining Akkalkot in Maharashtra. The President of the Municipal Committee produced before the Commission all the sweepers, sweepresses, clerks, chaprasis and the whole Municipal staff. It took considerable time to interview them and to read their prepared briefs.

4.19. Number of complaints were made to the Commission of Police interference with the Kannada people reaching the Commission. All the same, quite a number of Kannada speakers interviewed the Commission and expressed their strong wish to be merged in Mysore. Some speakers of the Marathi language also expressed a similar desire. The impression that the Commission gained during its sitting at Akkalkot was that public opinion generally was for transfer of the taluka as a whole to the State of Mysore, despite the fact that the State of Maharashtra or its supporters brought people from the Kannada village who told the Commission that *status quo* be mainained. The persons who came to support the stand of the State of Maharashtra gave correct census figures of the total population of a village but told calculated untruth when asked about the percentage of Kannada population of their villages. They seemed to have been tutored about the percentages. During the arguments by the learned counsels it seemed clear that in view of the actual complexion of the taluka it was not possible to retain a number of Marathi speaking villages in Maharashtra.

4.20. From administrative point of view it would be incorrect to allow retention of a few villages in one unilingual State while transferring the rest to another unilingual State particularly when these villages are surrounded on all sides by speakers of another language. If the major part of the taluka admittedly has to be handed over to Mysore, the rest should go along with it for facility of administration and communications. The Marahti population should be given all constitutional safeguards by the State of Mysore. On linguistic considerations as well as on other grounds, I would recommend the transfer of the taluka of Akkalkot including the Marathi majority villages from the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore. On similar considerations I have declined to recommend the transfer of Kannada majority villages in the taluka of Shirol to the State of Mysore as the taluka as a whole has a predominant Maharashtrian complexion and Kannada villages are a wedge inside the Marathi majority areas.

CHAPTER V

DISTRICT SANGLI (SOUTH SATARA)

Jath Taluka

Jath was a princely State ruled by the ancestors of the present Raja Saheb of Jath who was pleased to interview the Commission during its sittings in the town of Jath. The Ruler of Jath signed a treaty in 1820 A.D. with the then Government of India as well as the Maharaja of Satara. The Government of India maintained its political relations with the Ruler of Jath like other princely States in India. The headquarters of the Political Agency of Jath for about 93 years were in Maharashtra area of Satara and Kolhapur while for 36 years these were located at Bijapur. Bijapur itself was a part of the territory of the Maharaja of Satara till 1847.

5.2. The present taluka of Jath in Sangli district of Maharashtra consists of 94 villages of the State of Jath and 3 villages of Bijapur taluka of Bijapur district. Twenty-two villages of the ex-Jath State now form part of the Mangalwedha taluka of the district of Sholapur.

5.3. The State of Maharashtra in its memorandum submitted to the Government of India in 1957 offered 44 villages of this taluka with a population of 51,863 for transfer to the State of Mysore on the ground that these villages had 72% of Kannada speakers and on the principles that the Government of Maharashtra was claiming transfer of certain areas from the State of Mysore.

5.4. The offer was reiterated in the statement of the case submitted to this Commission on 31st March, 1967. The statement wished to retain 54 villages including the town of Jath in Maharashtra.

5.5. The State of Mysore in its memorandum submitted to this Commission claimed the whole of the taluka of Jath and demanded its transfer from Maharashtra to the State of Mysore. It said that the total number of villages in Jath taluka is 97 excluding the town of Jath but including four villages from Bijapur taluka as they were islands within Jath taluka. The total area comes to 873.8 sq. miles. According to the Census of 1951, the total population of the taluka is 1,08,280. Out of this 56,446 is Marathi speaking and 43,515 Kannada speaking. Percentage works out to 52.1 and 40.2.

5.6. It was contended that from the 17th century Jath was under the Adilshahi kings of Bijapur. It ultimately came under the British in 1872 A.D.

5.7. The nearest village in Jath taluka is 10 miles from Bijapur while the farthest village is hardly 50 miles from Bijapur. On the other hand, from Sangli the nearest village in Jath taluka is 44 miles while the farthest village is about 100 miles away.

5.8. From the beginning this State has been included by the Post & Telegraph authorities in the Bijapur Division with Bijapur as headquarters.

5.9. The forest area in Jath was being administered by the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer at Bagalkot in Bijapur district.

5.10. Along with other States, the State of Jath was merged with the Indian Union in 1948. The proper way would have been to link it as a taluka of Bijapur district at that time. With that district it has direct connection in various spheres, but unfortunately certain exigencies required the southern part of Satara district to be cut off and to be made into a separate district. In order to form such a district (called South Satara) portions of the Indian States of Sangli and Miraj (Senior and Junior) were added, but as these areas were not sufficient to form a district, the State of Jath was also included in this district, although the distance between the district place Sangli and Jath was more than 55 miles and there were no sort of connections or other links between Jath and the other areas. The State of Jath, thus, was artificially made a taluka of South Satara, now called Sangli district.

5.11. When linguistic divisions were formed in 1921 for administrative purposes of the Indian National Congress, the State of Jath was made a part of the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee. The Kannadigas then claimed that the State of Jath and parts of Sangli and Miraj were predominantly Kannada areas and taluka of Jath should be joined with the district of Bijapur both on linguistic as well as on administrative grounds. It was contended before the S.R. Commisison that the State of Jath deserved to be treated as a district and as a unit for purposes of territorial adjustment, but this point was not noticed by the Commission. It merely looked at it as a taluka of South Satara district. It was requested that the One-Man Commission should, therefore, take up this point for specific consideration along with that of the similar case of Akkalkot.

5.12. The State of Maharashtra concedes that 44 villages in Jath taluka may be transferred to the State of Mysore. The State of Mysore, however, claims the 54 villages which the State of Maharashtra wishes to retain, on the ground that the whole taluka should be treated as a unit and on grounds of administrative convenience transferred to the State of Mysore.

5.13. It is said that this taluka adjoins Bijapur district. The town of Jath is hardly 40 miles from Bijapur. The fact that the Collector of Bijapur was the Political Agent for the State of Jath is eloquent proof of administrative convenience; the eastern and southern parts of the taluka are connected with the Kannada areas

of Bijapur and Belgaum districts. Social contacts of the people of this taluka are mostly with the Kannada people in the talukas of Athni, Bijapur, Indi, Sholapur, Akkalkot etc; culturally Jath is very closely knit with Karnatak. In several villages of the taluka there are deities which are predominantly found worshipped in Karnatak region. The most important deity of this taluka is called Guddapura Danamma. The Temple of Danamma is at the village Guddapur, about 20 miles to the east of the town of Jath. The village is in the midst of a group of hills. Gudda is the Kannada word for a hill. The diety is also called "Varadani Guddamma". The big temple built in her honour is an ancient one. Devotees come from all parts of Karnatak. This village is unfortunately claimed by Maharashtra although it has a Kannada-speaking majority. It would be the saddest day for the devotees of this deity who are mostly in Karnatak if it were to be made over to the State of Maharashtra.

5.14. In the town of Jath 54.2 per cent speak Marathi while 25.5 per cent speak Kannada, but all the Marathi-speaking people understand Kannada very well. Jath town is surrounded by the Kannada speaking areas. The Marathi complexion of the town and of the neighbouring areas in the taluka is but the result of domination and influence of the Maratha Princes but the cultural and social ties have always been mostly with Kannada areas.

5.15. At several places in the taluka Kannada inscriptions are to the found. An important temple in Jath is devoted to Yellamma, the name of Parvathi, one of the shaktis, as the name implies. She is a goddess of the masses and is in fact held in reverence and worshipped by people of all castes, and is a very popular goddess peculiar to Karnatak. An annual fair is held in connection with the deity Yellamma of Jath and it is attended by thousands of devotees from various parts of Karnatak.

5.16. The popular desire for learning Kannada and for associating themselves with Karnatak is evidenced by the increase in the number of Kannada schools from 2 to 60, which took place after the merger of the State. There has been a strong demand for the integration of the Ex-Jath State with Bijapur district after the merger. The Bar Association and other popular organisations support the case. In public meetings similar opinion has been expressed.

5.17. Every judge who presides over the court at Jath is Marathi-speaking and no one knows Kannada. Even the clerical staff, all of them know Marathi but there is no one who can read and write Kannada. The result is that Kannada finds no place in the proceedings of the Court. Witnesses depose in Kannada but the record is taken down in Marathi. All these disabilities could only be removed by the transfer of this taluka to Mysore.

5.18. The claim to 54 villages was repudiated by the State of Maharashtra in its memorandum submitted to the Commission on 22nd May, 1967. It was contended that the claim of the State of

Mysore, that the former princely State of Jath should be considered as a unit could not be accepted and the statement that the Collector of Bijapur was the Political Agent of the State of Jath is not wholly correct. At one time the Political Agent was the Collector of Satara and later on, the Political Agent was the Collector of Kolhapur. The forest in Jath was given in the charge of the Sub-Divisional Officer at Bagalkot at the time of the merger, there being no Forest Officer in Sangli. This was a temporary arrangement. The taluka of Jath was made part of South Satara district on administrative grounds.

5.19. The Provincial Congress Committee of the Indian National Congress had jurisdiction only in British Indian Provinces and there was no separate Committee for the Indian States. It was, however, said that the existence of Kannada population in Jath taluka cannot be denied, but the fact that some temples attract Kannada people from outside has no significance. It does not establish any regular link as alleged between Jath and Karnatak. A shrine having devotees in different parts is a common occurrence in this country and it is neither possible nor necessary to join all such parts together administratively.

5.20. The claim to village Guddapur which has a Kannada-speaking majority, has been made on the ground of its being a pocket, surrounded by Marathi-speaking villages. The contention that the town of Jath is surrounded by Kannada-speaking areas to the east and south is not correct. In 1951 there was only one such village, Walsang, that was to the east of the town. All the other surrounding villages, nine in number, were Marathi-speaking. In 1961 there was not a single Kannada-speaking village surrounding the town of Jath as Walsang changed its complexion.

5.21. Public opinion in the villages which are proposed to be retained by Maharashtra is overwhelmingly in favour of the case as put forward by the State of Maharashtra.

5.22. Towards the close of the enquiry when the Commission was holding its final sittings at Ooty, the State of Maharashtra put in an application withdrawing four villages from the offer made in 1957. These four villages are Yeldari, Walsang, Kolagiri and Nigadi. The withdrawal was suggested on the ground that during the last ten years, between 1951 and 1961, these four villages had changed complexion. Yeldari which had 8.0% Marathi in 1951 had gone up to 72.2% in 1961 and Kannada speakers which were 91.3% in 1951 had been reduced to 27.8% in 1961; Walsang which had 45.1% Marathi speakers in 1951 has gone up to 92.8% in 1961 and Kannada population which was 51.6% in 1951 has been reduced to 4.7% in 1961; in Kolagiri Marathi population which was 8.5% in 1951 had gone up to 26.6% in 1961 while Kannada has been reduced from 90.0% to 71.8% in 1961; and Nigadi which had 9.1% Marathi population in 1951 has gone up to 62.7% in 1961 and Kannada has been reduced from 70.9% in 1951 to 11.7% in 1961. Out of the four villages Kolagiri has still a high percentage of Kannada speakers—71.8%.

5.23. About Yeldari a social worker came and gave evidence before the Commission and contended that the percentage of Marathi in 1961 was incorrect. He was asked to go and report to the Commission by paying house to house visits. He has sent a statement to the Commission saying that the figure of 72 per cent of Marathi in Yeldari is not correct. The Government of Maharashtra has been requested to check this statement but no reply has been received. The change in the complexion of other two villages seems to be somewhat abnormal. The fact of the matter is that these villages as in 1951 along with the rest, all 44 constitute one predominant Kannada-speaking zone.

5.24. Having heard the arguments of Shri Nambiar for the State of Mysore and of Shri Misra and Shri Singhvi for the State of Maharashtra and the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, my view is that the 44 villages originally offered by the State of Maharashtra to Mysore, a list of which is given in the statement appended to this chapter, should be transferred from the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore. The present population of these villages is 65,207, Marathi-speaking 15,001 and Kannada-speaking 45,035. The entire area to the east forms one Kannada zone while the area to the west of Jath forms a compact Marathi area. There are no substantial grounds for allowing the claim of Mysore to the whole of the State of Jath. On linguistic grounds, its case has no merits. The contention that the whole State should be treated as a unit and annexed to Bijapur has no substance in view of the principles enunciated by me.

5.25. Shri Nambiar drew my attention to the wishes of the people and said that the Police and the Maharashtra Government officials and other bodies supporting it had been trying to see that the people of Jath did not reach the Commission and that the Census figures of some villages were not correct. These contentions do not in any way affect my decision.

5.26. A look at the plan in the Language Hand-Book of 1955 as well as a look at the plan prepared in the Census of 1961 clearly demarcates the Kannada and Marathi areas. These form separate zones. There are a few pockets of Marathi-speaking villages in the Kannada zone. Slight changes of complexion in a few villages here and there in 1961 cannot be given effect to as these changes are not of great consequence, and the enumeration may not have been quite accurate.

5.27. The view that I have taken is supported by the Raja Saheb of Jath who, as Chairman of the Marathi-speaking people of Jath, represented them before me. He said that he felt that Jath taluka has to be bifurcated as decided by the Government of Maharashtra. The claim of the Government of Mysore to the whole of the taluka will not be for the benefit of the Marathi or the Kannada-speaking people. Sangli, at present headquarters, is 42 miles away by a short cut. Postal circles can be adjusted. There are 20 buses running from Jath to Sangli. 90 per cent of the trade is with Sangli, Sholapur etc. Income-Tax Circle for Jath is at Sangli. Jath taluka is predominantly Marathi-speaking. According to 1951 Census, the total population of the taluka is 1,08,280 and according to 1961 Census it

is 1,38,983. The percentage of population according to 1961 Census is Marathi 54·3 and Kannada 37·7. The claim of the State of Mysore for the whole taluka cannot be accepted and it does not fit in with the democratic considerations of the present time. The town of Jath is predominantly Marathi.

5.28. The merchants and others of the town passed resolutions that they do not want a transfer. The Muslims have also said that the town of Jath is predominantly Marathi.

5.29. The evidence received by the Commission during its sittings at Jath and the memoranda received by it are given in Annexure X, Volume II. Affidavits received as additional evidence that Shri Nambiar wanted to produce regarding this taluka are given in Appendix III, Volume II, of this Report.

5.30. The impression that the Commission formed while interviewing people of both complexions at Jath was that the proposal of the Government of Maharashtra made in 1957 for transfer of these 44 villages to Mysore and retaining the rest of the villages in Maharashtra was in accordance with the public opinion in this area, though some Kannada-speaking people were brought before the Commission to say that the whole of Jath taluka should be retained in Maharashtra and no area of this taluka should be handed over to the State of Mysore. As I have said elsewhere, I cannot place much reliance on their opinion in view of the fact that the Government in this area is in the hands of the State of Maharashtra and a number of people and some Police officials have been trying to bring evidence to the Commission to show that the offer made by the Government of Maharashtra in 1957 was not in accordance with the wishes of the people, even regarding the predominantly Kannada-speaking villages. Be that as it may, there is sufficient evidence before the Commission to say that the Kannada-speaking people certainly desire that their villages should be transferred to Mysore. These villages are contiguous to other areas of the State of Mysore.

5.31. The result is that the 44 villages mentioned in the statement are recommended for transfer from the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore while the claim of the State of Mysore for the rest of the villages is not recommended.

5.32. I would like to suggest a small change in the recommendations that I have made on administrative grounds. It is that the three villages of Walsang, Kolagiri and Shedyal, which would, if my recommendations are accepted, form a bulge of Mysore area in Maharashtra area and village ASANGI (Karajge) which would form a bulge of Maharashtra in Mysore area be exchanged between the two States, Asangi (Karajge) going to Mysore and Walsang, Kolagiri and Shedyal going to Maharashtra. The suggested change would make the Maharashtra and Mysore zones of this taluka compact areas. The population affected would be 64,395, Kannada 44,759 and Marathi 14,423.

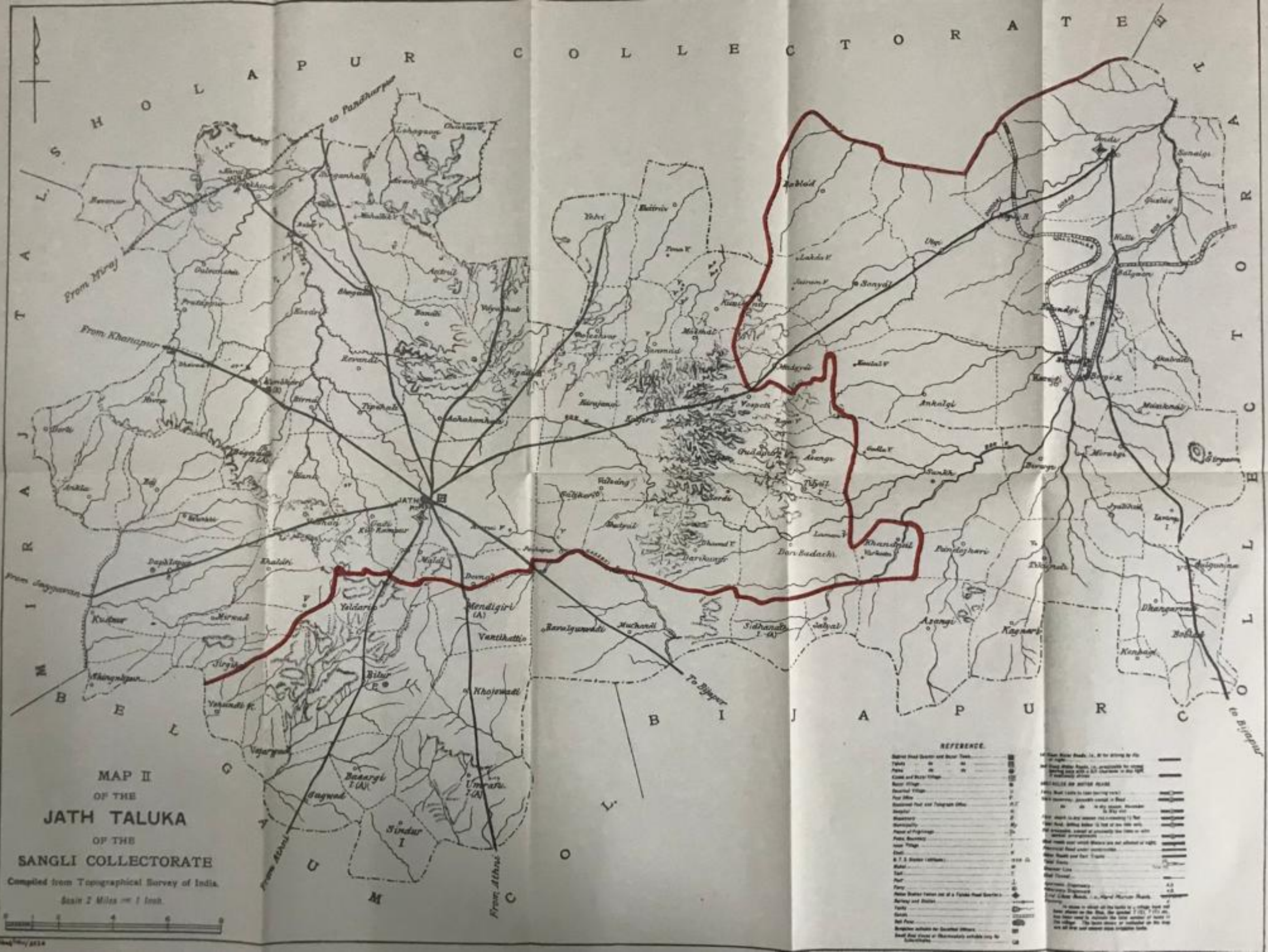
5.33. If this suggestion is accepted, the boundary line between the two States which would result from this change would be as demarcated in red on Map II of Jath taluka attached.

List of forty-four Villages in Jath taluka Recommended for Transfer to the state of Mysore

S. No.	Name of the village	Population (absolute)				Percentages		
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Others	Kannada	Marathi	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Ekundi	965	803	133	29	83.2	13.8	3.0
2.	Wajarwad	965	883	5	77	91.5	0.5	8.0
3.	Billur	5,298	3,473	1,370	455	65.5	25.9	8.6
4.	Gudwad	1,498	1,310	35	153	87.5	2.3	10.2
5.	Basargi	1,129	819	230	80	72.5	20.4	7.1
6.	Mendhegiri	1,386	932	414	40	67.2	29.9	2.9
7.	Shedyal	789	521	248	20	66.0	31.4	2.6
8.	Sindur	1,808	1,685	80	43	93.2	4.4	2.4
9.	Umarani	4,177	3,051	656	470	73.0	15.7	11.3
10.	Muchandi	2,787	2,316	281	190	83.1	10.1	6.8
11.	Madagyal	2,120	1,343	754	23	63.3	35.6	1.1
12.	Sonyal	2,365	1,496	697	172	63.3	29.5	7.2
13.	Siddhanath	887	623	251	13	70.2	28.3	1.5
14.	Sankh	4,285	3,010	1,014	261	70.2	23.7	6.1

15. Pandozari	593	392	109	92	66.1	18.4	15.5
16. Kaganari	533	376	57	100	70.5	10.7	18.8
17. Tikundi	1,424	1,027	328	69	72.1	23.0	4.9
18. Bhivargi	1,104	919	126	59	83.2	11.4	5.4
19. Boblad Jadra	2,889	2,569	140	180	88.9	4.9	6.2
20. Utagi	2,478	1,994	168	316	80.5	6.8	12.7
21. Nigadi Bk.	624	73	391	160	11.7	62.7	25.6
22. Umadi	4,746	2,459	1,859	428	51.8	39.2	9.0
23. Ankalagi	1,920	1,284	489	147	66.9	25.5	7.6
24. Halli	1,289	1,166	211	102	90.5	1.6	7.9
25. Sonalagi	793	626	142	25	78.9	17.9	3.2
26. Karajagi	1,473	1,022	32	419	69.4	2.2	28.4
27. Borgi Bk.	653	487	36	130	74.6	5.5	19.9
28. Belondagi	1,088	1,037	6	45	95.3	0.6	4.1
29. Balagaon	1,622	1,428	50	1	88.0	3.1	8.9
30. Suslad	1,321	1,054	215	52	79.8	16.3	3.9
31. Borgi Kh.	736	667	7	62	90.6	1.0	8.4
32. Akalawadi	379	318	1	60	83.9	0.3	15.8
33. Morabagi	707	654	12	41	92.5	1.7	5.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
34.	Manikanal	273	211	10	52	77.3	3.7	19.0
35.	Jalihal Bk.	712	529	170	13	74.3	23.9	1.8
36.	Girgaon	1,180	486	475	219	41.2	40.3	18.5
37.	Lavanga	258	80	174	4	31.0	67.4	1.6
38.	Konabagi	217	180	4	33	82.9	1.8	15.3
39.	Boblad Kontyava	2,233	772	1,320	141	34.6	59.1	6.2
40.	Gulagunjanal	244	112	131	1	45.9	53.7	0.4
41.	Yeldari	722	201	521	..	27.8	72.2	..
42.	Walsang	1,518	71	1,408	39	4.7	92.8	2.5
43.	Kolagiri	764	549	203	12	71.8	26.6	1.6
44.	Jalihal Kh.	255	27	288	..	10.6	89.4	..
	TOTAL . . .	65,207	45,035	15,001	5,171	69.1	23.0	7.9


SHOLAPUR COLLECTORATE
TALI
AJ
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MBE
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UM
COLOBI
JAPUR
TORA
LLE
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to Pandharpur
From Miraj
From Khanapur
From Jaysingpur
From Athni
To Bijapur
JATH
Sankh
Dafalapur
Khalddi
Kudnur
Mirad
Yeldarvi
Mendigiri (A)
Vantibhatti
Khojewadi
Bilur
Yalgundi R.
Vajarwad
Bagewadi
Sindur I
Umrani I (A)
Sagwad
Kavalgi
Ankalgi
Tikundi
Dhangarwadi
Kenjoor
Kagwad
Sidhanath I (A)
Jalyal
Khandoba Varkute
Pandoharwadi
Asangi
Dorabadachi
Darkunde
Bhalwani
Mudyal
Ghorpadi
Vanjoli
Kudchi
Kanjari
Mochandi
Ramalingwadi
Sanvad
Yelgi
Tipdhali
Adakamhatti
Kavathe Mahankal
Kavathe Ekand
Yelur
Bhivargi
Kumbhari
Birnal
Kavathe
Tasgaon
Ghatnandre
Kavathe Mahankal
Kavathe Ekand
Yelur
Bhivargi
Kumbhari
Birnal
Tipdhali
Adakamhatti

SHOLAPUR COLLECTORATE

SATARA COLLECTORATE

BIJAPUR COLLECTORATE

BELGAUM COLLECTORATE

MAP I

OF THE

JATH TALUKA

OF THE

SANGLI COLLECTORATE

Compiled from Topographical Survey of India.

Scale 2 Miles = 1 Inch

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

REFERENCE.

CHAPTER VI

SHIROL TALUKA

The Government of Bombay offered to transfer 19 villages to the State of Mysore in 1957. This offer was withdrawn before arguments started at Ooty. In my opinion this withdrawal is justified and is in accordance with the line of approach I have indicated in settling these disputes.

6.2. The linguistic complexion of this taluka has considerably changed by 1961. Out of the 19 villages that were originally offered, only four have absolute Kannada majority, six out of these have 12 per cent Kannada speakers and in the other nine Kannada is below 50 per cent. In no compact area Kannada predominates except in the four villages. The Kannada population of these villages does not exceed 6,000. This does not fulfil the tests laid down by me. I, therefore, cannot recommend the transfer of any of these villages to the State of Mysore.

6.3. A look at the language map prepared in the 1961 Census shows that the Kannada majority villages are surrounded on all sides by Marathi-speaking areas and these form a kind of wedge in the middle of these areas, touching Belgaum district to the south. Both on linguistic and administrative grounds, it is not possible to recommend the inclusion of the 19 villages in Shirol taluka in the State of Mysore in spite of the original offer. The scene has changed considerably since 1957 when the offer was made. The learned counsel arguing for the State of Mysore argued that in view of the offer and acceptance by the State of Mysore it led no evidence in support of this case. The State was allowed to adduce evidence by means of affidavits and the State of Maharashtra was allowed to rebut this evidence. Nothing tangible, however, has come to the notice of the Commission to alter its decision.

CHAPTER VII

GADHINGLAJ TALUKA

Twenty-four villages were offered for transfer to the State of Mysore. The situation according to 1961 Census of these villages is as follows.

Fifteen villages have absolute Kannada majority and two have relative Kannada majority and the rest have Marathi majority, absolute and relative. Out of the 15 absolute Kannada majority villages, five are in one pocket, three in the other pocket and seven form one compact unit in a third pocket; with two relative majority villages, they make a unit of nine and village Kalavikatti, a Marathi majority village, is a pocket in this Kannada area. Hence, these 10 villages contiguous to Belgaum district form one compact area with a population of about 13,000, Kannda being over 50 per cent. The three Kannada majority villages which are intercepted from this compact Kannada area by one Marathi majority village, Nangnoor, and by a relative majority Marathi village Khandal, have a population of 5,281, Kannada being 4,158. I recommend that these three villages with the two villages, Nangnoor and Khandal, be included in the Kannada zone of ten villages, thus making a total of 15 villages and these be transferred to the State of Mysore. The five villages in the third pocket form a wedge in Marathi area and on administrative grounds cannot be transferred to Mysore along with the seven Marathi majority villages. Thus, out of 24 villages offered for transfer to Mysore in 1957, 15 are recommended for transfer and the rest are not so recommended. The offer to hand over ten villages to Mysore on the eastern side was not withdrawn till the last moment.

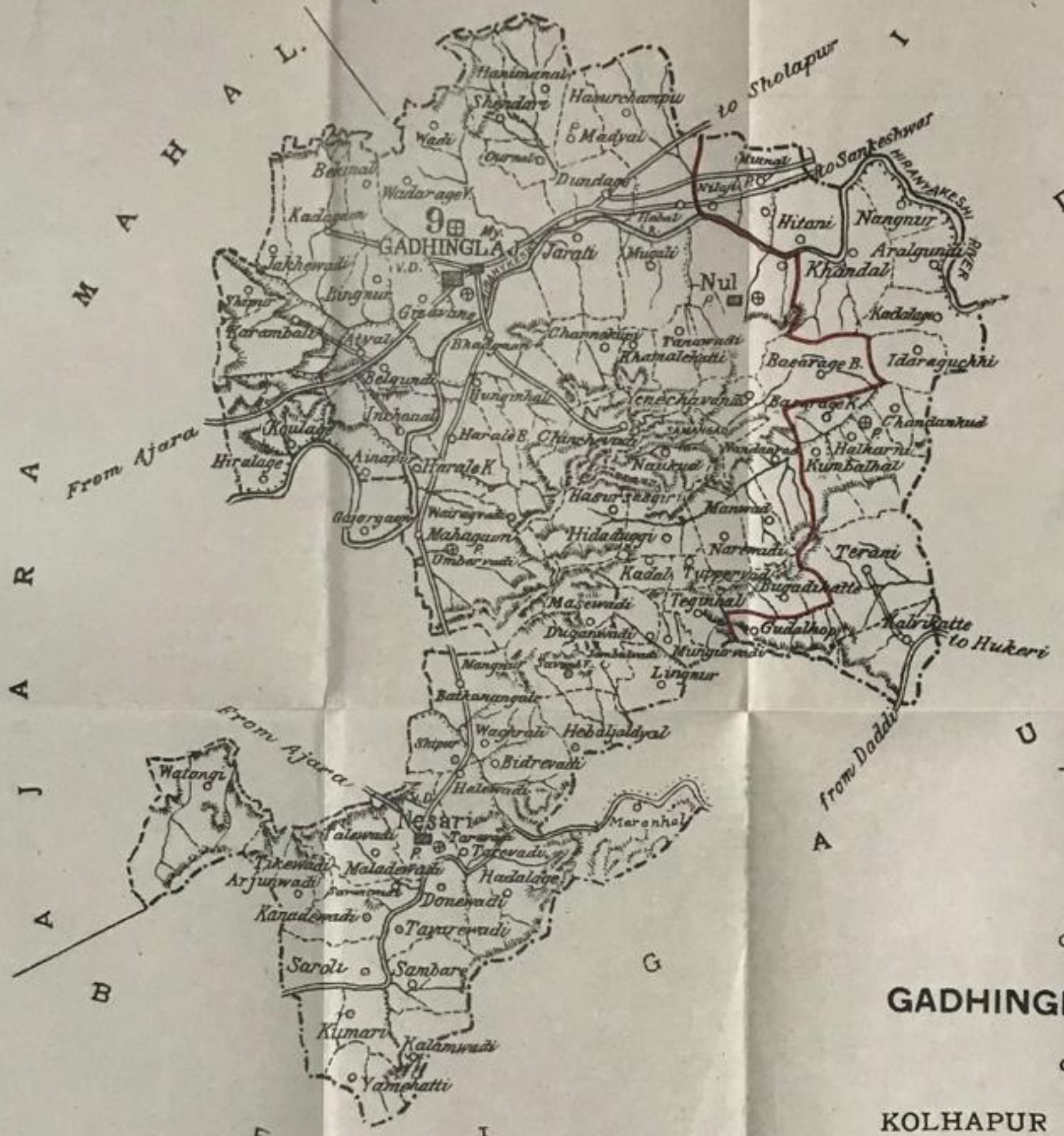
7.2. The Kannada compact area with two Marathi majority villages consisting of 15 villages recommended for transfer has a population of 20,060 souls out of which 11,551 are Kannada speakers, 7,013 Marathi speakers and 1,496 others. A list of the villages is given in the statement appended to this chapter. A plan of the villages recommended for transfer is annexed.

STATEMENT

List of 15 villages in Gadhinglaj Taluka recommended for transfer to the State of Mysore

S. No.	Name of the Village	Population (Absolute)				Percentages		
		Total	Kannada	Marathi	Others	Kannada	Marathi	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Nilji	1,141	917	122	102	80.4	10.7	8.9
2.	Hitani	1,925	1,525	352	48	79.2	18.3	2.5
3.	Mutnal	2,215	1,716	448	51	77.5	20.2	2.3
4.	Khandal	1,554	707	761	86	45.5	48.9	5.6
5.	Nangnoor	1,417	324	1,066	27	22.9	75.2	1.9
6.	Aralgundi	785	712	60	13	90.7	7.7	1.6
7.	Kadalge	1,376	994	344	38	72.2	25.0	2.8
8.	Idarguchi	644	388	251	5	60.2	39.0	0.8
9.	Chandankud	338	309	15	14	91.4	4.5	4.1
10.	Basarge Kh.	32	29	2	1	90.6	6.3	3.1
11.	Halkarni	3,939	1,898	1,424	617	48.2	36.2	25.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12.	Kumbalhal	369	291	47	31	78.9	12.7	8.4
13.	Terani	2,816	1,343	1,011	462	47.7	35.9	16.4
14.	Gudalkop	7	5	2	..	71.4	28.6	..
15.	Kalavikatti	1,502	393	1,108	1	26.2	73.7	0.1
	TOTAL	20,060	11,551	7,013	1,496	57.6	35.0	7.4



REFERENCE.

Divisional Head Quarters and District Towns
Talukas do.
Pethas do. do.
Kasbas and Bazar Villages
Bazar villages
Deserted villages
Post Office
Combined Post and Telegraph Office
Hospital
Dispensary
Municipality
Places of Pilgrimage
Petha Boundary
Inam Village
Khoti
G. T. S. Station (altitude)
Metal
Turf
Port
Ferry
Police Station (when not at a Taluka Head Quarter)
Railway and Station
Tanks
Canals
Gaut Pass
Bungalow available for Gazetted Officers
Small Rest House or Dharmashala available only for Subordinates
1st Class Motor Roads, i.e., fit for driving by day or night
2nd Class Motor Roads, i.e., practicable for strong touring cars with a fair clearance in dry light if roadbooks utilised

OBSTACLES ON MOTOR ROADS

Ferry Boat (able to take touring cars)
Hard causeway, passable except in flood
do. do. in dry season, November to May end
Ford, depth in dry season not exceeding 1½ feet
Tidal ford, falling below 1½ feet at low tide only
Not impassable except at unusually low tides or with special arrangements
Ghat roads over which Motors are not allowed at night
Provincial Road under construction
Other Roads and Cart Tracks
Tidal limits
Steamer Line
Ghat Tunnel
Ayurvedic Dispensary
Veterinary Dispensary
3rd Class Roads, i.e., Hand Murum Roads
Factory

In cases in which all the tanks in a village have not been shown on the Map, the symbol T (12), T (7) etc., has been used to indicate the total number of tanks in the village. The tanks shown or indicated on the map are all first and second class irrigation tanks.

MAP

OF THE

GADHINGLAJ TALUKA

OF THE

KOLHAPUR COLLECTORATE

Compiled from Topographical Survey of India.

Scale 2 Miles = 1 Inch

0 1 2 4 6 8

Reproduced by 502 Photo Mapping Engr Group.

Note.

1) The village "Maremhal" which is shown in Gadhinglaj Taluka is from Belgaum District (Mysore State) and hence deleted.

2) The Village "Watangi" is deleted from Gadhinglaj Taluka and included in Ajara Mahal (Kolhapur District) as per Government of Maharashtra G.H.R.D.No.TIC/3868/63470-V dated 29.4.64.

Hind/Misc/8532.

PART IV

MYSORE'S CLAIM AGAINST KERALA

Kasaragod Taluka

The States Reorganisation Commission in para 306 of their Report while considering the case of the allocation of South Kanara District said as follows:—

> "There is little justification for the Kerala claim to the whole of the South Kanara District. The Dar Commission had included only the Kasaragod taluk of South Kanara in the geographically contiguous area in which the Malayalam language is largely spoken. As a result of the resorting of census slips, the language figures for this taluka are now available. According to these figures, the Malayalam-speaking percentage is about 72. Though Kannadiga opinion in South Kanara concedes the claim of Kerala up to the Chandragiri river, administratively it will be more expedient to join the whole taluka to Kerala than to break it up purely on linguistic grounds."

2. The population of the main Kasaragod (North) Taluka is 2,36,353. Of this Malayalam-speaking population is 1,37,469. This forms about 58·16 per cent of the total population of that taluka. This falls short of the requisite 70 per cent fixed for transfer of a taluka on linguistic basis by the States Reorganisation Commission.

3. The State of Mysore has laid claim to the Kasaragod taluka consisting of three Firkas to the north of Chandragiri river excluding eight villages which lie on the southern side of the Chandragiri river. This has an area of 286·89 sq. miles having a population of 1,94,649 according to the 1951 Census. It is contended that there is nothing to support the view of the S. R. Commission that administrative convenience was in favour of placing it in Kerala and making it a part of Cannanore District. No reference has been made anywhere in the Commission's Report to any circumstance to support this view. All factors lead to the unchallengeable conclusion that from the point of view of administrative convenience Kasaragod taluka ought to be within the District of South Kanara and connected with Mangalore. In fact, during the period of a century and a half when it was a part of that district, there was no inconvenience felt of any type whatsoever.

4. This taluka is a part of 'Tulu-Nad', which extends further north and covers almost the whole of the South Kanara District. The people of this area largely speak Tulu at home and have all along adopted Kannada for their daily use outside their homes. They have also adopted Kannada script. They learn Kannada in schools and can read and write in Kannada.

5. The customs, manners etc. of the people of the present Kasaragod taluka are quite the same as those of the people of South Kanara District. They are different from those of the people of Malabar area of Kerala.

6. A request was made to the Commission that the boundary line between Kerala and the District of South Kanara should be drawn along the line of the Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers and along the hilly range and forest which lie to the south of Adoor village. They want Adoor to remain with Kasaragod taluka and joined to the District of the South Kanara while the eight villages to the south of the river be joined to the Hosadurg taluka and may be allowed to remain in Kerala.

7. It was alleged that the area to the north of the Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers including Adoor village is a distinct organic entity wholly different in every respect from the area to the south of the rivers.

8. Kasaragod is connected by rail with Mangalore which is the headquarters of the District of South Kanara. It will have a direct road connection in a short time by the construction of a bridge which is likely to be completed soon. Kasaragod town is hardly 28 miles from Mangalore. The northern boundary of Kasaragod taluka is within 7 miles from Mangalore and is not separated by any natural barriers. As against this, Cannanore with which district Kasaragod has now been connected after reorganisation, is more than 50 miles away from Kasaragod town by rail. The District Magistrat's Court and the District Judge's Court are 64 miles away from Kasaragod by rail. Bangalore, the capital of the State of Mysore, is hardly 230 miles away from Kasaragod whereas Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala, is more than 400 miles away from Kasaragod. These distances are enough to show the inconvenience caused to the people by the inclusion of Kasaragod taluka in Kerala. Following further facts were stated in the State's memorandum:

The mainstay of the economy of the disputed area, like that of its adjacent areas in Puttur, Balthangadi and Mangalore talukas, is the cultivation of arecanut plantations. There are intimate trade links between the Kasaragod taluka and Mangalore. Kasaragod taluka is known for its areca produce. Eight thousand acres of the finest areca plantations are in the disputed area. The assembling centre for this produce of the disputed area as also of the rest of South Kanara District is 'Mangalore Bunder', where there are a number of Warehouses for exporting them to Bombay and other places in North-Western India. The produce of the disputed area which is assembled and marketed at Mangalore is estimated at 6,000 tonnes annually fetching about Rs. 3 crores.

9. After reorganisation of the States, inter-state trade restrictions have hampered the free flow of trade and commerce to and from the disputed area to Mangalore.

10. Cashewnut is another commercial crop of the disputed area. The produce has also to come to Mangalore for shelling in the cashew factories and for export out of India.

11. Kasaragod taluka along with its neighbouring areas is deficit in regard to foodgrains. Before reorganisation, the South Kanara District and Coorg used to supply the foodgrains for these areas. This has come to be stopped after reorganisation. Consequently people of Kasaragod are experiencing considerable difficulties and they have to pay high prices. The agriculturists of the disputed area buy all their requirements mainly from Mangalore Bunder. No trade or commerce of the disputed area passes to the south of the Chandragiri river or *vice versa.*

12. The preponderance of Kannada language in the present Kasaragod taluka is evidenced by the fact of the number of schools and number of pupils that attend Kannada schools in the three Firkas. In the jurisdiction of the Assistant Educational Officer, Manjeshwar, there are 61 Primary Schools in which Kannada is exclusively the medium of instruction and number of students is 10,546. The schools in the Manjeshwar Firka with Malayalam as the exclusive medium of instruction are 5 with 1,019 students. Within the jurisdiction of the Assistant Educational Officer, Kumbla, there are 63 schools where Kannada is exclusively the medium of instruction, the number of Kannada students being 11,000. There are six schools with Malayalam as the medium of instruction, the total number of students being 1,000. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Educational Officer of Kasaragod comprises a large number of schools including villages lying to the south of Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers. There are 64 Primary Schools out of which 24 lie in the villages south of Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers. In the remaining 40 schools, there are 4,138 Kannada students.

13. Similarly, in the secondary education the students reading Kannada predominate over Malayalam. The total number of Kannada medium students in the High Schools is 5,132 whereas the number of Malayalam students is 961.

14. Even the Malayalam-speaking persons use Kannada or Tulu as a subsidiary language to a great extent and consequently the transfer of this area will not cause inconvenience to them since majority of the people in this area are usually conversant with Kannada language. In this area even Konkani and Marathi-speaking people are conversant with Kannada.

15. By reason of the fact that Kannada was for a century and a half, the official language of the whole district including Kasaragod taluka, all the official records are maintained in Kannada. Even the village revenue records and other village accounts are kept in Kannada and Kannada alone.

16. The number of documents offered for registration at the Sub-Registrar's Office in Kasaragod and Manjeshwar gives a true picture of the language current in the area. In Kasaragod Sub-Registrar's Office out of a total number of 2,000 to 2,500 documents registered each year, the documents registered in Malayalam are less than 20 and those in English are between 10 and 65 while the rest are all executed and registered in Kannada. Similarly, at the Manjeshwar Sub-Registrar's Office out of 740 to 1,000 documents executed and

registered annually, the documents in Malayalam are less than 10 and none in English and the rest are all in Kannada. In the Badiyadka Sub-Registrar's Office the total number of documents so far registered is 4,685 out of which 131 are in Malayalam, 305 in English and the remaining 4,249 documents are in Kannada. Thus, subsequent to reorganisation, from 1956 to 1958, out of 12,699 documents registered in Manjeshwar and Kasaragod Sub-Registrar's Office 12,417 were in Kannada.

17. There has been great dissatisfaction and discontent in the minds of the people of Kasaragod by reason of its being cut off from South Kanara District and transferred to the State of Kerala. The Madras State Legislative Assembly accepted the suggestion that the areas of Kasaragod taluka lying to the north of the Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers should continue to be a part of the South Kannara District and should go to Mysore. However, the Parliament ultimately transferred the northern portion of the taluka along with the southern to Kerala.

18. In para 57 of the Mysore State's case it was said as follows:

> "Although the Government of India seem to have looked upon the Kasaragod case as of the same type as that of Maharashtra's claim for adjustment of boundaries between that State and Mysore, and have incidentally classed both the cases as "border disputes", while referring them to the One-Man Commission, they differ materially on some important aspects. The areas claimed by Maharashtra State were, prior to reorganisation, parts of one State. By reason of the reorganisation in 1956, they happened to be left over in the original State and consequently went to Mysore. It is thus urged by Maharashtra that the boundary drawn by the S.R. Act was wrong and that the same should be redrawn in the ways now suggested by them. That is why they called it a border dispute and submitted their memorandum first to the Zonal Council under Section 21 of the S.R. Act. The Kasaragod case is of an entirely different nature. Kasaragod Taluka, or even the District of South Kanara, was never a part of Kerala State. The substantial question involved is not one of adjustment of boundaries or of drawing the line a little this way or that. It is a case where an entire taluk has been erroneously transferred to Kerala, by reason of the failure of the S. R. Commission to apply its own principles and of application of wrong tests and considerations. This case is thus more in the nature of a review of the old conclusion by a proper application of the same principles which were enunciated by the S. R. Commission. It should further be seen that this error of the S. R. Commission has resulted in a merciless cutting away of an entire Taluka from its natural and homogeneous surroundings and in throwing it off into a new State and amidst heterogeneous surroundings much to their inconvenience and hardship. It should further be noted that the transfer of the Kasaragod Taluka has caused no special convenience to any one, nor will its retransfer to Mysore

cause any difficulty or hardship to the people of Hosadurg Taluk, who may well remain in Kerala. In fact it is a case of setting right a mistake erroneously brought about."

19. In the concluding paragraphs of the claim it was said that Tulu and Kannada languages are akin to each other and that the Malayam language that is spoken in Kasaragod taluka is not at all Malayalam. It is an admixture of Tulu with a superficial coating of Malayalam. In the disputed area Kannada is the home tongue of a small section. The major section speak Tulu at home, but all the Tulu people speak and use Kannada outside home. Similarly, there are many other communities or other sections of people such as Christians, Konkani Brahmins, Saraswats etc., whose home tongue is Konkani but who are conversant with Kannada and use it for all purposes outside their homes. So also there are some immigrants from parts of Maharashtra who have settled in these parts since centuries. They still continue to speak some corrupt form of Marathi at home but outside they also use Kannada for all purposes. These non-Malayali people take their education in Kannada and have to be classified as Kannada-knowing for all practical purposes.

20. It was said that in the Kasaragod area 35 out of 36 Panchayats had demanded a transfer of this area to Mysore State. In the General Elections in 1957 and in the mid-term election of 1960 as also in the 1962 and 1967 General Elections, the candidates of the Karnataka Prantikarana Samiti or those supported by them have all along been successful in the Manjeshwar constituency comprising mostly of the Firkas of Manjeshwar and Kumbla. In the Kasaragod constituency also, they have succeeded in 1967 General Elections. All these go to show that the people of these areas desire to be linked again to Mangalore and to the South Kanara District evidently because they realise the inconvenience and the difficulties they have been put to by reason of their being cut off from South Kanara District. The people of the disputed areas have been suffering numerous difficulties and disabilities mainly due to the fact that they have been cut off from the South Kanara District and joined to Kerala.

21. The State of Kerala in spite of being requested a number of times declined to co-operate with the Commission and to submit its memorandum to it, with the result that the enquiry conducted by the Commission both at Mangalore and at Kasaragod has been an *ex parte* affair. The State of Kerala sent no observer to watch the proceedings during the Commission's sittings at both these places. A large crowd, however, was visible everywhere but the persons who came for interview to the Commission were only those who supported the claim of the State of Mysore.

22. A large number of memoranda had also been received from persons in support of the Mysore case. In Annexure XIII, Part I, Volume II, all those memoranda and the views of the persons who interviewed the Commission have been mentioned.

23. Reference may, however, be made to the mmorandum presented to the Commission by the Karnataka Prantheekarana Samithi, Kasaragod, through its President, Shri B. S. Kakkilaya, Advo-

cate, Kasaragod, which has detailed the grievances of the people of the area claimed by the State of Mysore. It may also be mentioned that this State's case was strongly supported by the memorandum and evidence given by Shri M. S. Mogral, Ex-MLA, Madras, who belongs to Muslim community and who represented the Kasargod Assembly constituency in the year 1952 in the Madras Legislative Assembly.

24. Shri M. Umesh Rao, Advocate and Ex-MLA (Kerala) also placed before the Commission all the points that strongly supported the case of the State of Mysore. It was mentioned by him that the Four-Man Committee consisting of Pandit Nehru, Maulana Azad, Pandit Pant and U. N. Dhebar heard them on 14th January, 1956 and it was decided that the portion of Kasaragod taluka to the north of the Chandragiri river was to form part of the State of Mysore. It was at the same time decided that Gudalur taluka was to form part of Kerala State. An objection was taken to this by the leaders of Madras State with the result that the recommendation of the S. R. Commission regarding Kasaragod was accepted by Government.

25. Shri K. Mahabala Bhandari, Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, placed a printed memorandum before the Commission and also appeared before it to give evidence. He is a sitting member in the Kerala Legislative Assembly from Manjeshwar Assembly constituency of Kasaragod, being a nominee of the Kasaragod Karnataka Prantheekarana Samithi which stands for the merger of the taluka in Mysore. This is the third time that he has been returned to the Kerala Assembly from this constituency and he placed before the electorate the question of the merger of Kasaragod in Mysore. On all these occasions he was returned to the Assembly with a clear mandate to fight the injustice that was done to the people by the S. R. Commission in including the Kasaragod taluka lying to the north of Chandragiri river in Kerala. He has fully endorsed the memorandum submitted by the Samithi and said that the inclusion of Kasaragod taluka in Kerala State was against all canons of justice and fair-play and utter disregard of the wishes of the people of this area. He has mentioned that in the year 1965 there was an election to the Kerala Assembly and the Congress leaders of Kerala in the presence of Shri Kamaraj and other leaders approached the Karnataka Samiti at this juncture making a solemn promise that they would see that the Kasaragod border question would be settled immediately after the elections according to the people's wishes. He also mentioned that the S.S.P. leaders who were the members of the former P.S.P. of which Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai and Shri K. Chandrasekharan were the leaders, definitely conceded their claim and it was after this undertaking by them that Shri K. R. Karanth had agreed to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Kasaragod Lok Sabha constituency in 1962. The commitments of the leaders of the Communist Party in Kerala including Shri A. K. Gopalan have been referred to in detail by the Samithi in its memorandum.

26. Reference was also made to the statement of Shri E. M. S. Namboodiripad, the present Chief Minister, that he had openly conceded their claim as early as 1952 when he published his book

"The National Question in Kerala". At page 4 of the said book he clearly says that "only about half the Kasaragod taluka in South Kanara District should be a part of Kerala." In an article written by Shri Achutha Menon, Chief of the Kerala Branch of the Communist Party of India (Right) in *Navayugam*, dated 22nd October, 1966, he said that it would be wrong to contend that there was no Mysore-Kerala border dispute or that the Mysore State's claim of Kasaragod is recent and new, and also mentioned that in all the elections held immediately after the States reorganisation in 1957, 1960 and 1965, people voted only the pro-merger candidates who had won the elections.

27. Memorandum submitted by Shri U. P. Kunikullaya, Advocate and Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, also very strongly supported the claim of Mysore for inclusion of the Kasaragod taluka to the north of the Chandragiri river in Mysore.

28. As already stated, the whole of the material that has come before the Commission is strongly in favour of the transfer of the three Firkas of Kasaragod to the north of the Chandragiri river, excluding the eight villages, to the south of the river, to the State of Mysore.

29. The Chief Minister of Kerala when requested by the Commission for his views replied that his Government would not submit any memorandum to the Commission and that he would certainly meet the Commission and discuss the matter if the Commission visited Trivandrum. He, however, gave to the Commission reasons for the decision of his Government. These being:

> "The present Kerala State was formed in 1956. The actual demarcation of the boundaries of this new State was the culmination of protracted discussions which continued for several months. It is true that a section of the people, *i.e.*, those whose mother tongue is Kannada, Tulu, Konkani and so on, were dissatisfied. They have naturally been agitating for re-demarcation of the boundaries. The appointment of the Commission, it should be presumed, was the result of this agitation.
>
> The question however arises: would any decision taken once be re-opened on the basis of agitation and agitation alone? If that is so, I am afraid any decision taken in pursuance of recommendations made by the present Commission will also be re-opened if there is an agitation. Is this what we are being led to?
>
> Re-opening of questions once decided after protracted discussions can and should take place if (and if) the Government is satisfied that the earlier decision was wrong. The Central Government, however, does not say that their decision regarding the Maharashtra-Mysore and Mysore-Kerala borders was wrong. On the other hand, the Government claims that the investigation to be made by the

Commission now should be in accordance with the principles of States Reorganisation (presumably the principles on the basis of which the borders were demarcated in 1956).

The Mysore-Kerala border was demarcated on the linguistic basis with taluka as the basis. Kasaragod was included in Kerala because the taluk as a whole has a majority of the Malayalam people. Out of a total population of 2,26,668, 1,26,414 are Malayalam-speaking (55·8 per cent). Those speaking Tulu, Kannada, Marathi and Konkani are 22·7 per cent, 12·3 per cent, 5·3 per cent and 2.9 per cent respectively according to 1961 census. There is, therefore, no point in re-opening the question if the 1956 principles of language and contiguity with taluk as the basis were to be re-opened.

The question naturally arises: has the Government decided to give up the principles of language and contiguity with taluka as the basis? If so, what are the new principles? Are these new principles being applied to all borders between States? If not, why is it being applied in relation to the Mysore-Kerala border?

I can anticipate one answer—the answer that the Mysore-Maharashtra border is also being re-opened. I am, however, afraid that this stands on a different footing. With regard to Mysore-Maharashtra border, there was after all an agreement between the two Governments. There is no such agreement on the part of our Government.

May I in this connection inform you that I personally hold the view that the basic principle of 1956 Reorganisation was wrong? I was one of those who explained to the Commission the view of my Party (not only in relation to Kerala, but to all the other States and their borders). Our view was that the principle should be language and contiguity with village as the basis. As a matter of fact, during my previous tenure of office as Chief Minister of this State (1957-1959), this very question was raised by the then Home Minister, the late Govind Ballabh Pant. He asked me whether I could concede the claim of the Kannada people. My reply to him was that, believing as I did in the above principles, I would have no objection if the Government of India were to rectify what according to me was a mistake committed in 1956 and could uniformly apply the above principle. He naturally expressed his inability to do so. The matter therefore was allowed to rest there.

Today, however, I am in a still more difficult position. You know that our Government is a coalition of different political parties. Some of them do not accept, but are vehemently opposed to the principle of taking village as the

unit in the demarcation of borders. As for those of us who are committed to the village principle, they too cannot reconcile themselves to a one-sided application of this principle—its application to the Mysore-Kerala border alone.

I am afraid that the totally unprincipled manner in which the border question is being reopened will lead to a further deterioration in the situation. For if on the basis of any recommendation which the Commission may make, the Government of India now comes forward with a re-demarcation of the Mysore-Kerala border, it is likely to result in several Malayalam-speaking villages going to Mysore; or in the alternative, several non-Malayalam-speaking villages may still continue in Kerala. In either case, the agitation will continue. I am therefore of the view that it is better to allow the present borders to continue, particularly since no other State borders are being re-demarcated."

30. Though the enquiry was boycotted by the State Government of Kerala, yet a few memoranda were received by the Commission contesting the claim of the State of Mysore. Shri Parambi Lonappen, Ex-High Court Judge and Minister, Perumanoor, Ernakulam, sent a note that the Kasaragod was a settled fact and the matter should not be reopened. He said that about 73 per cent of Kasaragod is populated by Malayalees and Malayalee-speaking people and even out of the other 27 per cent of the people, those who speak Tulu speak also Malayalam. They can understand and read the language well. The people of Kasaragod are content with their present political status and territorial affinity. They in a large body do not demand separation at all. Even if they do, can it be allowed? he asked.

31. These settled facts cannot be reopened for flimsy reasons or agitation. The creation of linguistic States was one of the major follies committed by the Congress Government in power and by the Congress Party. For the unity of the nation it is better to live amicably with your neighbour whose mother tongue and social habits and religion are slightly different from yours. No patriotic Indian much less a retired judge of the Supreme Court should have accepted the post. Shri Mahajan must necessarily be one who believing upon "finality in decisions" should not have agreed to be a party to it, though the Government of India wanted to do it. It is never too late for him to mend.

32. "Shri K. P. Kesava Menon has rightly stated that the enquiry by the Commission should be boycotted and that no one should give evidence before the Commission. I entirely agree with him. We should prevent the enquiry being conducted," Shri Lonappen said.

33. A memorandum was also submitted by the Samyukta Socialist Party, Kerala, opposing the change in *status quo*. It concluded by saying that it is the view of the Kerala SSP that there appears

to be no justification for a re-alignment of the Mysore-Kerala boundary.

34. The Kasaragod Mahajan Sabha is another organisation which represented the majority of the population of Malayalees of the taluka. They had resolved to boycott the Commission. A memorandum was submitted to oppose the claim of the State of Mysore. They also sent a resolution with their memorandum resolving to boycott the Commission. The resolution was moved by Shri N. Sreedharan and seconded by Shri B. M. Abdulrahaman.

The resolution was accompanied by a printed memorandum giving reasons why there should be no change in the border.

35. Shri T. Moideed Kunhi, Muktesor and President, Jamahath Committee, Kasaragod, on behalf of the Contraned Jamahath Committee of Talangara Big Jamahath Mosque and the Thayalangadi Kizar Jamahath Mosque of Kasaragod also submitted a memorandum to the Commission challenging the statements said to have been made to the Commission by one Hajee Poyakkare Abdul Rahaman of Kasaragod town posing himself as a Muslim leader. His views were not binding on the Muslims.

36. Shri B. Shiva Rao, Ex-M.P. from Mangalore met the Commission at Delhi and gave his views. He told the Commission how a great injustice has been done by the Congress leaders to the people of Kasaragod by including the area to the north of Chandragiri river in Kerala with which it really had no touch of any kind, geographical, economical, cultural or communicational. He also stated that all the Congress leaders had been telling him that the claim of the people of Kasaragod for being allowed to remain in the district of South Kanara was just but eventually something had happened at the political level which amounted to denial of justice to them.

37. The Commission is handicapped a good deal in making recommendation to the Government on this dispute for the reason that the enquiry is one-sided.

38. There is no doubt that according to the census figures Malayalam language has a majority of over 50 per cent in the area claimed, but from whatever material has been placed before me it is clear that Malayalam as spoken in these parts is different from Malayalam spoken to the south of the river Chandragiri and evidence had been led by the Malayali people themselves to the effect that they cannot understand the Malayali language spoken in Malabar nor the Malabar people can understand the Malayalam spoken by them, and that for all other purposes, namely, trade, education and business dealings, all the people in this area, whether Malayalam speaking, Tulu speaking, Konkani speaking or Marathi speaking, use Kannada script and language. Thus, as at present advised, on the material placed before me my view is that the area north of the Chandragiri river is predominantly a Kannada area though superficially it is Malayalam-speaking—above 50 per cent.

In my opinion no violence would be done to the principle of linguistic homogeneity if this area was included in its old district of South Kanara. Geographically it is quite intimately connected with Mangalore. All its requirements, whether of food or anything else, are taken from Mangalore and its trade in all commodities is with Mysore. The communications with Mangalore are easy and if looked at from the point of view of the convenience of the people, the best course would have been not to join this area with Kerala.

39. With great respect to the views expressed by the S.R. Commission that on administrative grounds the whole taluka should be transferred to Kerala, I feel constrained to say that this decision does not seem to be sound. If administrative considerations and convenience of the people were to be taken into consideration, then the proper course would have been to keep the area to the north of Chandragiri river as it then was in the district of South Kanara and to transfer only the Hosadrug taluka or the area south of the river to Kerala. The present Chief Minister of Kerala and other leaders of different organisations in the past have also felt the same way as appears from their various writings and speeches to which my attention was drawn.

40. On the basis of the *ex parte* enquiry held by the Commission, the conclusion is inevitable that the Kasaragod taluka, north of the Chandragiri river, should be transferred to the State of Mysore. This recommendation suffers from the handicaps mentioned above. The material that has come before the Commission was not placed before the States Reorganisation Commission because of the circumstance that Shri K. M. Panikkar, one of the members of that august body who visited the area, I am told by very respectable persons who gave evidence before me, had assured the people that the area north of the river was Kannada area and should remain in the State of Mysore in the District of South Kanara.

41. The Advocate-General of Mysore State argued that the Commission had jurisdiction to resolve the border dispute between the State of Mysore and the State of Kerala even though the State of Kerala had declined to take part in the Commission's enquiry and that linguistic considerations so far as this dispute was concerned though primarily relevant were not the true criterion for resolving this dispute and that the Commission was within its charter in giving a second thought to the problem as the States Reorganisation Commission had dealt with it in a summary manner and against the wishes of the people who have been agitating the question since that report was accepted by the Government.

42. I have no doubt in my mind that the intention of the Government in referring this dispute to the One-Man Commission was that the Commission should go into the claim made by the State of Mysore and place its views before the Government whether the agitation carried on by the people of this area was justified and whether the expression of the wishes of the people as evidenced by the results of all elections held in this area on this issue had to be respected and are genuine. I have made by recommendation on a full assessment of the whole material before me.

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following areas are recommended for transfer from the State of Mysore to the State of Maharashtra:

(i) the town of Nipani with 40 villages of the Nipani Bhag in Chikodi taluka of Belgaum district. The population recommended for transfer is 1,17,783 out of which 89,893 is Marathi-speaking, their percentage being 76·3;

(ii) 9 villages of Hukeri taluka of Belgaum district out of the 18 villages claimed by the State of Maharashtra. The population recommended for transfer is 9,229 with 90·5 per cent Marathi-speakers;

(iii) 62 villages of Belgaum taluka out of the 86 originally claimed by the Government of Maharashtra. The population recommended for transfer is 75,303, Marathi-speaking percentage being 80·6.

The claim to the town of Belgaum is disallowed and the city is not recommended for transfer to the State of Maharashtra.

(iv) 152 villages of the Khanapur taluka out of 206 claimed by the State of Maharashtra. The towns of Khanapur and Nandgad stand transferred. The population recommended for transfer is 78,685, percentage of Marathi-speaking being 80·5.

2. Thus, out of the total of 814 villages claimed by the State of Maharashtra, their claim is recommended in respect of a total of 264 villages along with the towns of Nipani, Khanapur and Nandgad covering an area of 656·3 sq. miles. The total population thus transferred is 2,81,000, Marathi-speaking percentage being 79·1.

3. The claim of the Government of Maharashtra to the villages in the district of Bidar, in the three talukas of the district of North Kanara, for nine villages in Athni and to 13 villages out of 22 in the taluka of Hukeri is not recommended. As stated above, the claim to the town of Belgaum along with 40 more villages in the taluka of Belgaum stands rejected. Transfer of 54 more villages in the Khanapur taluka is also not recommended.

4. The following areas are recommended for transfer from the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore:

(i) the whole taluka of Akkalkot along with the town of Akkalkot. The population recommended for transfer is 1,75,333, Kannada-speaking percentage being 56·9;

(ii) 44 villages in the taluka of Jath as offered by the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore. The population recommended for transfer is 65,207, percentage of Kannada-speaking being 69·1; the counter claim of the State of Mysore for the other 54 villages in this taluka is disallowed;

(iii) 65 villages in the taluka of South Sholapur, as offered by the State of Maharashtra. The population recommended for transfer is 88,839, percentage of Kannada-speaking being 51·4. The counter claim of the State of Mysore regarding the entire taluka is rejected;

(iv) 15 villages in the taluka of Gadhinglaj out of 24 offered by the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore with a population of 20,060, Kannada speaking percentage being 57·6. The Mysore Government's claim to nine villages out of the 24 originally offered but later on withdrawn is disallowed.

5. The offer of the State of Maharashtra to transfer 19 villages in the taluka of Shirol to the State of Mysore has subsequently been withdrawn. The Commission does not find it possible to recommend the transfer of any village in this taluka to the State of Mysore. Similarly, the Commission is unable to recommend the transfer of the nine villages offered by the State of Maharashtra to the State of Mysore in the taluka of Mangalwedha.

6. The counter claim of the State of Mysore to the city of Sholapur, the taluka of Chandgad and the taluka of North Sholapur stands rejected.

7. The result is that out of 260 villages offered by the State of Bombay to the State of Mysore in the year 1957, 227 villages covering an area of 1,368 sq. miles are recommended for transfer. The population of the area recommended for transfer is 3,49,439, Kannada-speaking percentage being 57·9.

8. So far as the taluka of Kasaragod is concerned, the Commission on the *ex-parte* material placed before it recommends that this taluka, north of the Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers, be transferred to the State of Mysore from the State of Kerala on administrative, economic, geographical and grounds of facility of communication, which in the opinion of the Commission override the linguistic consideration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The two State Governments of Maharashtra and Mysore gave me full co-operation in the course of my enquiry and showed me all possible courtesy and consideration and looked after my comforts in all its details. The Chief Secretary of the State of Maharashtra, Shri D. R. Pradhan, and the Deputy Secretary, Shri S. L. Ogale, not only personally looked after me but were very respectful and affectionate. So was Shri K. Balasubramanyam, Special Secretary to the Government of Mysore on duty with the Commission and other officers of that Government. I express my gratitude to the State Governments and their officers for all the consideration shown to the Commission. The enquiry was conducted peacefuly and in a cordial atmosphere in spite of the emotions of the people being considerably worked up on the linguistic issue. This was because of the interest the officers of the States concerned, their Collectors and Commissioners and members of the Police force took in maintaining a disciplined atmosphere all-round.

The State Government of Kerala though not taking part in the enquiry made all necessary arrangements for the sittings of the Commission at asaragod and in spite of threats of boycott and picketting, the Superintendent of Police of the Government of Kerala took all measures to ensure that the Commission's work at Kasaragod was conducted in a calm, peaceful and disciplined atmosphere in spite of the surcharged and tense situation of the place. The Commission expresses its sense of appreciation of the arrangements made to the Government of Kerala.

To the people of the various disputed areas and particularly those who came to meet the Commission and placed their views before it, the Commission is thankful for their helpful attitude and disciplined and respectful manner in which they behaved and acted during the interviews.

The Commission is also thankful to the learned counsel of the State Governments who argued their respective cases before it. The arguments were conducted in a fair and straightforward manner and were very helpful to the Commission in arriving at its conclusions.

The Secretary of the Commission, Shri S. Narayanswamy, is a person of great experience and ability. He has managed the Commission's proceedings and its sittings as well as the tours that the Commission undertook with admirable thoroughness. No one could have done better than what he did. He was most helpful in every way in the proper functioning of the Commission. Not only he worked as an efficient officer but was a kind friend and a companion to the solitary One-Man Commission in all its wanderings in the disputed areas. The Commission expresses its gratitude to him for his kindness and courtesy.

The staff of the Commission was put to very hard work and all of them discharged their functions admirably and without a frown. Shri K. R. Singhal, Section Officer, was responsible for organising the office work and he did it effectively. The Commission's Private Secretary, Shri J. C. Ghatak, is a very hard working and conscientious person and is very efficient in his work as Stenographer. During my official career I have hardly found a more efficient person as Private Secretary than him. I am thankful to him for all the help he gave me in the discharge of my work.

I cannot help thanking the Union Government for placing confidence in my judgement in resolving this difficult issue. No directions were issued to me and I was given unfettered discretion in conducting my proceedings and in settling the procedure of my work, and even deciding the question about my jurisdiction.

In conclusion, I may add that none of the Governments concerned have on my recommendations got what they claimed, and I presume that they will not be satisfied with these recommendations. All that I can say is that I have made my recommendations to the best of my ability and intelligence and without any pressures of any kind. The Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Mysore were pleased to meet me and showed me all the courtesy and kindness but they never interfered in any way in the conduct of the Commission's proceedings. I am grateful to them for the kindness and courtesy shown to the Commission. The Chief Minister of Kerala expressed his willingness to meet the Commission if it visited Trivandrum but the Commission felt no necessity for doing so, particularly when the attitude of the State Government was one of indifference. I am, however, grateful to the Chief Minister of Kerala for placing his views before me.

To the Chief Secretary of the State of Madras, I have to express my thanks for arranging for the Commission's stay and for arranging for its sittings at Ooty.

I was requested by a large number of persons to say in my report that quite a number of respectable and intelligent persons who came to meet the Commission were fed up with the linguistic reorganisation of the States in India and that speakers of other languages in unilingual States were being treated as second-class citizens, and that steps be taken to reorganise the States on Zonal basis so that the unity of India be strengthened and separatist tendencies be curbed. The Commision feels that it is outside its function to express any opinion on this matter. It is outside the ambit of its charter.

MEHR CHAND MAHAJAN,

Chairman.

NEW DELHI;

Dated 25th August, 1967.

GMGIPND—Minto Road—TSS—125 HA 11-9-1967—3,700

D.O. No. 1/1/67-MC

COMMISSION ON MAHARASHTRA-MYSORE-KERALA BOUNDARY DISPUTES.

New Delhi, September 3, 1967.

My dear Home Minister,

My attention has been drawn to the recommendation in my report in regard to the Kasaragod Taluk and it is stated that it is not definite about the precise villages to be transferred to Mysore and to be retained in Kerala. I hasten to clarify the position as follows:

My recommendation is that the present Kasaragod Taluk minus the 8 villages noted in the margin lying to the south of the Chandragiri and Payaswini rivers and south of the Adoor hills and the reserve forest should be transferred to Mysore and that the 8 villages mentioned above may remain part of Kerala as at present. If necessary this clarification may be embodied suitably in paragraph 40 in the Chapter on Kasaragod Taluka in Part IV, Volume 1, of my Report.

1. **Bandadka**
2. **Kuttikole**
3. **Bedadka**
4. **Kolathuru**
5. **Tekkila**
6. **Perambale**
7. **Chemnad**
8. **Kalanadu**

2. It has also been pointed out to me that the boundary of the village Chankibail in the Khanapur Taluk which I have proposed for transfer to Maharashtra has not been shown correctly in the map attached to the Report. The village boundary was demarcated on the basis of the maps received from the Government of Mysore and I have asked the Secretary to the Commission to ascertain the correct boundary of this village. In this case there is no mistake about the village but only about its exact boundaries. The boundary of village Chankibail in the map attached to the Report may be corrected, if necessary, on the basis of the information received from the Government of Mysore.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) MEHR CHAND MAHAJAN.

Shri Y. B. Chavan,
Home Minister,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi.